Registration begins for homegrown, commercial pot growers. PAGE 5
OPA's Hurst earns fraud examiner designation. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 155

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

STILL AT LEVEL BLUE BUT...

Public restrictions are eased

Starting today, businesses that have facilities open to the public may now be open from 5am to 1am, social gatherings at public beaches are now allowed, and curfew hours are now between the hours of 2am and 4am.

The CNMI remains at Level Blue, though, which is still one step from Level Green, which is the safest level. However, buoyed by the CNMI's efforts to keep its number of coronavirus numbers down, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres amended the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives of 2020 yesterday to ease some of the

See PUBLIC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 5, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	375	14	389
Recovered	318	1	319
Active	51	14	65
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			23,573

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46	0	46
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,301**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

PSS having trouble getting nurses

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is currently going through a difficult time rounding up nurses who will keep an eye on the health of students, teachers, and support staff while they are in school.

The idea is to have part-time nurses at each school who can help PSS monitor the well-being of everyone amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The problem is that it appears easier said than done. "We tried hard to recruit nurses," said Tim Thornburgh, PSS' federal programs manager at a recent

See PSS on Page 4

3 named CEC commissioners

» Lelanie Manglona of Rota re-appointed as commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

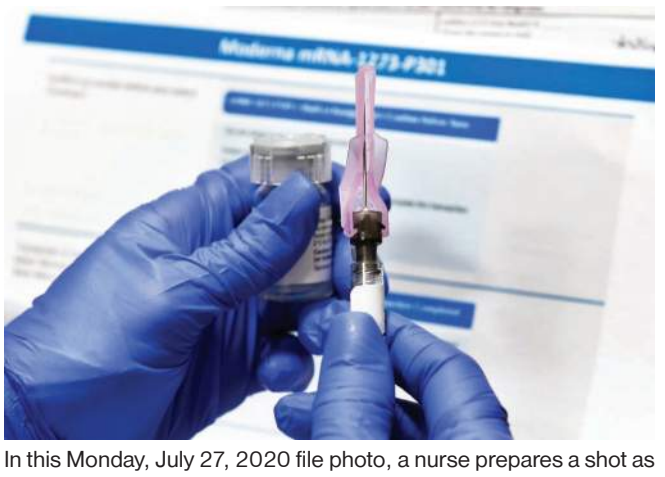
Two persons have been appointed Saipan representatives on the Commonwealth Election Commission and

See CEC on Page 4

File photo shows the Commonwealth Election Commission office in Susupe.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Debate begins for who's first in line for vaccine



In this Monday, July 27, 2020 file photo, a nurse prepares a shot as a study of a possible COVID-19 vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., gets underway in Binghamton, N.Y.

AP

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Who gets to be first in line for a COVID-19 vaccine? U.S. health authorities hope by late next month to have some draft guidance on how to ration initial doses, but it's a vexing decision.

"Not everybody's going to like the answer," Dr. Francis Collins, director of the Na-

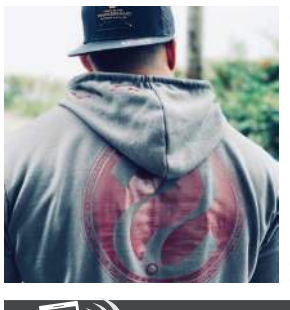
See DEBATE on Page 4

REPAIR WORK

This portion of the Beach Road Pathway remains unrepaired after sustaining damage after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in October 2018. Using funds awarded by the Administration for Native Americans to non-profit organization 500 Sails, the Saipan Mayor's Office has embarked on a project to repair and replace typhoon-damaged concrete picnic tables and benches along the pathway. The project started last July 27 and is expected to be finished by Aug. 30, 2020.

KRIZEL TUAZON

INSIDE



BUSINESS
Håfa Brand specializes in a variety of apparel that represent Marianas roots and cultural pride.

PAGE 11

NATION
At least six people are killed as Tropical Storm Isaias dumped rain along the U.S. East Coast.

PAGE 12

WORLD
More than 70 people are killed and 3,000 injured after a massive explosion in Lebanon.

PAGE 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

IN THE RUNNING AGAIN

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP), fourth from left, hands over his candidacy documents to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez Monday morning. Also in the photo are, from left, businessman Juan S. Tenorio, Sablan's wife Andrea, his mother Victorina, former governor Dr. Carlos S. Camacho, and Kilili for Congress Committee chair Dr. Galvin S. Guerrero. In the back row are Donald D. Mendiola and Frances S. Arriola.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOP SLATE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios join a group photo with Republican candidates and supporters shortly after the filing of candidacies at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe on Aug. 3, 2020, for the Nov. 3 election.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Janet Maratita not seeking re-election

Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) said Monday that she is not seeking re-election as representative for Saipan's Precinct 1 for the Nov. 3 general elections.

Maratita said that despite the continued support and encouragement of family members, friends, constituents, and Precinct 1 community, she will not be seeking re-election or election in any capacity due to personal reasons.

"I extend my deepest gratitude to the great people of Precinct 1 for entrusting me to represent you in the House of Representatives where I will continue to serve your best interests until the end of my term in January," she said. "Please know that serving my community has and will always be my life's greatest passion. For this reason, it is my hope that I will continue to serve this community that I love by other means of public service and community involvement."

It was erroneously reported Tuesday that Maratita is seeking re-election as an independent. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Castro seeking second term

Rep. Luis John Castro (Ind-Saipan), sixth from left, stands with Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), fifth from left, Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), first from left, and Castro's office staff after Castro filed his candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe last Aug. 4.

JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Luis John "L.J." Castro (Ind-Saipan) filed his candidacy last Tuesday, Aug. 4, to seek a second term as a representative in the 22nd House of Representatives. This time, however, he will be running as an independent candidate and not under the Republican Party banner.

"After much contemplation and consideration, I have decided to seek office as an independent candidate. Though this decision may have some of you asking questions as to why I am running in this capacity, I want to assure you that regardless of where or how I run in this election, the desire instilled in me through my elders, my family, friends and the people of Precinct 1 will continue to be the driving force that pushes me forward in being a better servant leader to you," said Castro.

Castro stated that within the last two years since he took office, "I have drafted and supported legislation that has helped in ensuring that our retirees continue to receive their full pension, that our school system receive the adequate funding it needs, authored laws to allow for more opportunities for our islands to be well equipped in times of disaster, and for our rich culture to thrive for our *manhoben*—young people—and visitors alike," said Castro. "We are a precinct and a Commonwealth in crisis, but we can pull through this together. And if given the opportunity again, I will do my best to give you my best for our children, our *man'åmko*, and our friends and neighbors in seeing us through these tough times," said Castro.

Last Nov. 14, 2018, Castro was elected to two years in the House of Representatives, and was sworn into office last Jan. 14, 2019. Should Castro win in the general elections this year, this will be his second term in office.

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Home of the Best Fried Rice
We're excited to serve you again!
Garapan and Susupe Branch
Now Open for Dine In!
6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
STEPS TO ENSURE CUSTOMER SAFETY
Disinfecting foot bath
Contactless sanitizer and temperature scanner
Sneeze guard at cashier counter
Automatic soap dispenser and faucets
Social distancing and frequent sanitation
Installed QR Code Menu
Our team is equipped with proper PPE's and are certified Serv-Safe on Precautions, Takeout, and Delivery
THE CURBSIDE GUIDE
1 ORDER
Order by calling your preferred branch
2 PICK-UP
Orders may be picked up along our reserved curbside parking slots or in-store
3 DELIVERY
Our staff will place your order on a tray for you to grab to minimize physical contact
4 PAYMENT
We accept cash and credit card transactions. We suggest giving the exact amount when paying in cash.
Scan the QR Code and get access to our menu straight on your phone!
Tel. No.: 670.233.4519/20 (Garapan) I 670.235.5379/80 (Susupe)
shirleyscoffeeshopfanpage
@shirleys_saipan
shirleyscoffeeshop

'Merchant marines have not left the NMI's shores'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The case of 37 airmen who tested positive for COVID-19 in Guam last June 22, who also put 74 people at risk and broke protocol in moving around, has prompted the concern of some residents after seeing an unknown number of military personnel shopping in Garapan last July 31. Warren Villagomez, who heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, clarified, though, that these "military personnel" are actually merchant marines who are not from a military ship and have been stationed out in the reef off the Saipan Lagoon.

Villagomez said in a phone interview that, upon arriving in the CNMI, the merchant marines, in coordination with Saipan Shipping Co. and the task force's Infections Disease Surveillance Unit, went through the process of screening.

"We have a close working relationship with [the U.S.] Department of Defense, and we notified the Office of the Governor and our surveillance unit team and Saipan Shipping [that], if they leave our shores and they come back, they will be subject to the same procedure if they're going to get on the island," said Villagomez.

He said that they are keeping track of all the personnel that were on the merchant marine ships and other DOD ships that could potentially dock on the islands.

He did not state how many of these merchant marines were in Garapan, but assured that they have not left the islands' shoreline and have followed the protocol that every passenger goes through upon entry to the islands.

Earlier, in a Facebook post, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) said, "Yesterday (July 31) I got a few messages from concerned citizens who reported seeing military personnel shopping in Garapan. I want to thank the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna and the CNMI Task Force for looking into these reports."

"While we love and support our heroes in the military, our mandatory quarantine is in place and must be followed by everyone. We saw what happened in Guam when military personnel did not follow protocol and do not want to see the same happen here. Thank you," said Propst.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the prepositioned ships of the U.S. military off the coast of Saipan have been taking precautionary measures such as social distancing and frequents handwashing in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

'A lot of families need food'

The Giving Table held its fourth relief goods distribution last Friday at the Dandan bus stop in front of the Dandan Middle School.

About 160 bags were given out to people in need of food, said Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), one of the organizers of the weekly food drive.

What has become apparent that morning, Propst said, is that the demand for food during this time of COVID-19 is rapidly growing.

"In The Giving Table, you could get as many as you could, but the demand we had this morning made us come to a decision to give out one bag per car. The demand is huge and in 20 minutes it was gone," he said. "There are a lot of people in the community who lost their jobs and do not qualify for federal assistance under the Nutrition Assistance Program and WIC."

Propst said all bags were given out and he wishes that they were able to give more.

"This Giving Table does not receive a penny in local or federal taxpayer funds. Whatever is given away comes from the generous hearts of friends and family. Thank you to Paul Plunkett and his son who helped bag and distribute, along with Vince Camacho and Sal Limes," he said.

"All donations have come from social networks of friends and family members. It has grown through word of mouth. My hope is to see a non-profit or group lead this or something similar for every village as we see hundreds of families struggling due to this pandemic," Propst added.

The lawmaker also said that residents need disaster food stamps. "We need to remember those who do not qualify for any federal assistance. The need is great right now, we must do whatever we can to help the most vulnerable in our community." *(Chevy Alipio)*

LIMITED TIME DEAL
Buy One, Get One for only $2.99

Artisan Grilled Chicken
Buy One, Get One Artisan Grilled Chicken Sandwich at a regular price & Get your 2nd Artisan Grilled Chicken Sandwich for Only $2.99
Served with shredded lettuce.
Open for Dine-in, Drive thru and Take out services
Serving you Safely
STORE HOURS: MIDDLE ROAD STORE - 6:30AM TO 10:00PM DAILY • GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:00AM TO 10:00PM DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

I ♥ MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$18.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$25.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
10:00AM-8:00PM • Monday-Sunday
VISIT 10 TIMES - GET 1 FREE
For more information, please Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, 1st Floor, Joeten Commercial Bldg. next to Zoom Chicken

HONDA
2020 CIVIC LINEUP
TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, AGGRESIVELY STYLED
A CIVIC FOR EVERY PERSONALITY
EXCELLENT RELIABILITY
HONDA SENSING SAFETY SUITE, STANDARD.

Starting at $199* per paycheck with 10% down
Highway MPG [*] 42
KELLEY BLUE BOOK OFFICIAL GUIDE BEST BUY WINNER 5 YEARS IN A ROW
NEW ARRIVALS NOW AVAILABLE!
Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com
FLEXIBLE FINANCING TERMS AVAILABLE.
CALL 234-5562 FOR MORE INFO.
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM - 5 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
Like us on Facebook
*2020 CIVIC AUTO LX AT 5% APR FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT.

After decades, 2-party system alive again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Democratic Party has a full slate of candidates for the Nov. 3 general elections, marking the return of a two-political party system in the Commonwealth for the first time in over four decades.

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix led their 17 candidates, including nine women, and mostly former independents, to the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe yesterday to beat the last day for the filing of candidacies.

Later, the candidates and their supporters held a "roadside wave for change" near the AK Toyota Beach Road intersection in San Jose.

Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona and Donald Manglona, who both filed their candidacies yesterday as independents but are aligning with the Democratic Party, brings the Democratic Party's slate to 20.

Paul Manglona is seeking re-election, while Donald Manglona is running for a Rota House of Representatives seat.

NMI Democratic Party candidates, along with Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona, pose for a group photo after their "roadside wave for change" along the pathway on Beach Road, Oleai, yesterday afternoon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Democratic Party is also supporting the re-election of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who is an independent but caucuses with the Democrats in the U.S. Congress.

For Saipan Senate, the party's candidate is former Labor secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero.

For Saipan House Precinct 1, the candidates are Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Celina Babauta, Antonio Cabrera, Benusto "Ben" Piteg, and Peter Muna.

For Precinct 2, Rep. Tina Sablan is seeking re-election, with Luella Marciano also a candidate.

For Precinct 3, the party has Vicente Camacho, Alfred Saures, Corina Magofna, and Denita Yangtemai.

For Precinct 4, Rep. Sheila Babauta is seeking re-election, with Jenita Castro also running.

For Precinct 5, Rep. Richard Lizama is seeking re-election, with Leila Staffler also a candidate.

For Tinian, Jose Cruz is running for the Senate, while Frederick Dela Cruz is seeking a House seat.

Hix said in an interview that they are very excited because they haven't had a full slate in over four decades. "I think it's time, with everything that is happening around us. I think the people have spoken and they are ready for change. So we're just proud to…be able to offer the alternative option to the status quo," Hix said.

DEBATE

From Page 1

tional Institutes of Health, recently told one of the advisory groups the government asked to help decide. "There will be many people who feel that they should have been at the top of the list."

Traditionally, first in line for a scarce vaccine are health workers and the people most vulnerable to the targeted infection.

But Collins tossed new ideas into the mix: Consider geography and give priority to people where an outbreak is hitting hardest.

And don't forget volunteers in the final stage of vaccine testing who get dummy shots, the comparison group needed to tell if the real shots truly work.

"We owe them ... some special priority," Collins said.

Huge studies this summer aim to prove which of several experimental COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Moderna Inc. and Pfizer Inc. began tests last week that eventually will include 30,000 volunteers each; in the next few months, equally large calls for volunteers will go out to test shots made by AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson and Novavax. And some vaccines made in China are in smaller late-stage studies in other countries.

For all the promises of the U.S. stockpiling millions of doses, the hard truth: Even if a vaccine is declared safe and effective by year's end, there won't be enough for everyone who wants it right away -- especially as most potential vaccines require two doses.

It's a global dilemma. The World Health Organization is grappling with the same who-goes-first question as it tries to ensure vaccines are fairly distributed to poor countries -- decisions made even harder as wealthy nations corner the market for the first doses.

In the U.S., the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, a group established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is supposed to recommend who to vaccinate and when -- advice that the government almost always follows.

But a COVID-19 vaccine decision is so tricky that this time around, ethicists and vaccine experts from the National Academy of Medicine, chartered by Congress to advise the government, are being asked to weigh in, too.

Setting priorities will require "creative, moral common sense," said Bill Foege, who devised the vaccination strategy that led to global eradication of smallpox. Foege is co-leading the academy's deliberations, calling it "both this opportunity and this burden."

With vaccine misinformation abounding and fears that politics might intrude, CDC Director Robert Redfield said the public must see vaccine allocation as "equitable, fair and transparent."

How to decide? The CDC's opening suggestion: First vaccinate 12 million of the most critical health, national security and other essential workers. Next would be 110 million people at high risk from the coronavirus -- those over 65 who live in long-term care facilities, or those of any age who are in poor health -- or who also are deemed essential workers. The general population would come later.

CDC's vaccine advisers wanted to know who's really essential. "I wouldn't consider myself a critical health care worker," admitted Dr. Peter Szilagyi, a pediatrician at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Indeed, the risks for health workers today are far different than in the pandemic's early days. Now, health workers in COVID-19 treatment units often are the best protected; others may be more at risk, committee members noted.

Beyond the health and security fields, does "essential" mean poultry plant workers or schoolteachers? And what if the vaccine doesn't work as well among vulnerable populations as among younger, healthier people? It's a real worry, given that older people's immune systems don't rev up as well to flu vaccine.

With Black, Latino and Native American populations disproportionately hit by the coronavirus, failing to address that diversity means "whatever comes out of our group will be looked at very suspiciously," said ACIP chairman Dr. Jose Romero, Arkansas' interim health secretary.

Consider the urban poor who live in crowded conditions, have less access to health care and can't work from home like more privileged Americans, added Dr. Sharon Frey of St. Louis University.

And it may be worth vaccinating entire families rather than trying to single out just one high-risk person in a household, said Dr. Henry Bernstein of Northwell Health.

Whoever gets to go first, a mass vaccination campaign while people are supposed to be keeping their distance is a tall order. During the 2009 swine flu pandemic, families waited in long lines in parking lots and at health departments when their turn came up, crowding that authorities know they must avoid this time around.

Operation Warp Speed, the Trump administration's effort to speed vaccine manufacturing and distribution, is working out how to rapidly transport the right number of doses to wherever vaccinations are set to occur.

Drive-through vaccinations, pop-up clinics and other innovative ideas are all on the table, said CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier.

As soon as a vaccine is declared effective, "we want to be able the next day, frankly, to start these programs," Messonnier said. "It's a long road."

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

CEC

From Page 1

one as a Tinian commissioner, allowing the commission to have a quorum.

In an interview Monday at CEC during the Republican Party's filing of candidates, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed that he just signed that day the appointment of retired military John Diego Attao as a commissioner representing Tinian. Torres said he also recently appointed Vicenta Rosario and Dorris Atalig as commissioners representing Saipan.

The commissioner's term is four years.

The administration also re-appointed Lelanie M. Manglona as commissioner representing Rota. Manglona's term expired last July 21.

"It's Tinian that we needed in order for the board of election to have a quorum," Torres said.

The governor said the current number of commissioners is enough for a quorum but the law requires one representative from each island in order for the board to hold a meeting.

"We're working with the Senate. They will be making the public hearing…hopefully this week," Torres said. The CNMI Senate has to first approve the appointments before they become official.

When the term of commissioner Joseph E. Santos of Tinian and Aguiguan and Manglona of Rota expired last July 21, CEC board had no quorum as this left Tinian and Aguiguan with no commissioner, and Rota with only commissioner Esther A. Yatar.

Saipan and the Northern Islands currently have two commissioners—Jesus I. Sablan and Henry Emery Kaipat. Sablan is the current board chairman.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez earlier stated that the commission needs five commissioners in all to have a quorum, and at least one for each island.

All nine commissioners are appointed by the governor and are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

The mid-term election, which CEC now calls the general election, will be this Nov. 3. The last day to file candidacies was yesterday, Wednesday.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

health restrictions that are in place, effective today, Aug. 6, 2020.

"Due to the continued success of our COVID-19 preventative measures at the borders, as well as the cooperation of our community in adhering to guidance from our health officials, the CNMI remains safe from the spread of COVID-19, thus further relaxation of restrictions is warranted," said part of the governor's memorandum yesterday.

For businesses that have facilities open to the public, they may continue to operate outside the 5am-to-1am period but may not be open to the public. Businesses may not conduct drop-off/pick-up and delivery services during the curfew hours.

Businesses shall also limit occupancy to 75%.

All public beaches and pathways are open for all recreational activities, including social gatherings, subject to the social distancing requirements stated in the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives.

Curfew hours on Saipan, Tinian and Rota are between the hours of 2am and 4am.

"We continue to urge individuals to practice good hygiene, exercise social distancing at all times when not at home, and to wear face masks in public, especially when feeling ill," the memo stated.

Torres declared a State of Significant Emergency throughout the Commonwealth on Jan. 29, 2020, and established response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures with regard to COVID-19. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PSS

From Page 1

Board of Education meeting.

Thornburgh said that there was a private firm that initially showed an interest in providing PSS with nurses but it backed out at the last minute.

PSS had allocated $550,000 in order to pay 22 nurses part-time for 10 months. The funding came from the Education Stabilization Fund that PSS received through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic Security, or CARES, Act. Should no nurses get hired, Thornburgh said that the money will be reprogrammed. Additionally, PSS got $510,858 for school sanitation and $20,400 to buy 255 thermometer wands.

Last June 21, Thornburgh said that PSS is looking into hiring retired nurses who would work part-time in every campus to manage thermal scanning for both students and staff.

Thornburgh added that PSS will also work on purchasing thermal cameras. "They will be using these thermal cameras, the same thing we see at the airports. It gives a thermal image and it also gives your temperature. That's what we're looking at, and we're looking at getting 32 of them," he said.

With the start of the school year eyed this September, PSS has set aside funding from the CARES Act to help low-income families apply for home internet by covering a portion of their internet bill. "Both of our connectivity providers, Docomo Pacific and IT&E, have a low-income program where they provide a connectivity device for like $60 a month. We're trying to help families with low income, so we'd cover $40 but the families would still cover $20 a month. We're estimating that the number of families [that will be assisted] are most certainly around 4,000," Thornburgh said.

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Registration begins for homegrown and commercial pot cultivators

The CNMI Cannabis Commission is ready to take in applications from all home growers of marijuana for the homegrown registry program, now that the registry system is in place.

Public Law 21-5 permitted the cultivation of homegrown marijuana, subject to regulatory controls, and now that the registry is in place, qualified growers should now get their annual homegrown registry cards from the commission, for an annual renewal fee of $75 a year, which would allow them to grow six adult marijuana plants and 12 immature plants.

Commission chair Nadine Deleon Guerrero said in an interview that, while the law allows for homegrown cultivation, it also stipulates that those engaging in homegrown cultivation are mandated to register for the program first.

"Come in, turn in your applications. We are ready to get growing. …We really try to simplify the processes. We ask for the patience of the CNMI people and, as they've been giving us, let's work through it and we will continue to simplify processes as we go," she said.

The commission is also now ready to accept applications for the commercial cannabis program. "The birth of the commercial industry in the CNMI now allows for our local entrepreneurs [and] investors to come in and hopefully capitalize on cannabis. …Producers that are coming into the CNMI to set up shop, including local entrepreneurs, now have the ability to come in and apply for a license and grow [marijuana] legally," she added.

Despite having only one staff, through managing director Monique Sablan, the commission guarantees that they can handle all applications. "We have been working up until this point, trying to create the procedure and how we're going to actually implement…application intaking but also the processing side. There will be a lot of administrative work that needs to be done on my part, but once we get the flow of things, [it will get easier]," Sablan added.

Applicants may submit their application packages, either for Homegrown or Commercial Licensing, at the intake windows of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Department of Commerce on Saipan.

Applications on Tinian may be dropped off at the Department of Commerce customer service intake window, while Rota applicants can drop off their applications at the Administrative Office of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Torres: Exciting times for the Cannabis Commission

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, times are "exciting" for the CNMI Cannabis Commission, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who believes it will attract new investors to the CNMI.

"It is exciting times for them," he said at his radio news briefing Tuesday. "I have seen them work through this process, the regulations in detail. I'm excited to see the applicants and the interest."

The Cannabis Commission launched its commercial program yesterday, along with the homegrown registry program, to finally allow entrepreneurs and investors to put up a marijuana-related business in the CNMI.

Cannabis Commission chair Nadine Deleon Guerrero is optimistic, saying in an interview that there are investors who have travelled to the island to work on their application.

"We are optimistic and… we currently have an investor who's in quarantine right now, waiting to come in and do all the paperwork. We are very, very positive that this is going to take off," she said. "We have one from Washington and one from Taiwan. … These are our potential investors and applicants that have expressed interest. They're just waiting for the date to turn in their application."

The Cannabis Commission continues to communicate with possible investors, with Deleon Guerrero adding that while the current situation with the pandemic is "unfortunate," the CNMI still has people who are looking to invest.

Recognizing the times, Torres also said that people are skeptical about investing, and if they do, they do so not at the amount that was projected in the beginning. "But seeing the interest that's here, for a business prospect to go through the quarantine process, that's commitment in itself."

Applicants may submit their application packages, either for Homegrown or Commercial Licensing, at the intake windows of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Department of Commerce in Saipan. ***(Iva Maurin)***

UPCOMING SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS

Research projects in the Saipan Lagoon

The Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management, or APASEEM, will be hosting today, Aug. 6, 2020, two virtual presentations on local research efforts in the Saipan Lagoon concerning coral reefs.

The presentations will start at 10:30am and going until approximately 11:30am. APASEEM will be hosting the event in cooperation with local and federal resource management agencies. The public is invited and, as at all APASEEM gatherings, audience participation is encouraged.

Sridhar

Jordan

"In an unusual move on our part and that of the speakers due to COVID 19 health concerns, both talks will be conducted entirely using telecommunication," said APASEEM in a statement yesterday.

Both talks contribute to the knowledge gained at the Saipan Lagoon Coral Nursery Demonstration site. One will quantify coral wound healing rates. A second will be a talk concerning evaluation the efficacy of using 3D photogrammetry methods to monitor various aspects of the nursery itself.

The talks will be given online using Google Meet. The link for the talk is https://meet.google.com/rwm-wgdu-vgo

The first talk by Nikita Sridhar is a pilot study on the quantification of wound healing rates among coral species in CNMI nursery. Sridhar is an incoming senior at University of California Los Angeles with a major in Marine Biology and minor in Geographic Information Science and Technolo

The second talk by Jamon Jordan focuses on the development of photogrammetry SOP For quantification of coral growth in the CNMI nursery. Jordan is a rising senior from Georgia attending the University of Georgia and is on track to acquire a double major in Fisheries and Wildlife with an emphasis in Aquatic Science and Natural Resource Management and Sustainability with an emphasis in GIS and a minor in Ecology.

For more information about APASEEM, visit the website at http://www.apaseem.org. ***(PR)***

5G
FIRST TO 5G
5G
Be first to experience 5G in the Marianas, exclusively from DOCOMO PACIFIC. See docomopacific.com for details.
docomo pacific
Better Together

Land and Water Conservation Fund monies locked in

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that President Donald Trump has signed the Great American Outdoors Act in Washington, D.C. The new law provides permanent funding for the annual Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to the Marianas and areas around the country. The Great American Outdoors Act also funds long-overdue maintenance needs at parks managed by the National Park Service, including the American Memorial Park on Saipan. Over the next five years, $6.65 billion will be allocated for repairs at facilities run by NPS. American Memorial Park is on the agency's list for $10.6 million in repairs.

The Great American Outdoors Act will lock in about $800,000 annually for the Marianas to plan, develop, and maintain outdoor recreation areas. The act puts together a number of environmental bills in a single legislative package, including H.R. 3195, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act. Sablan was an original cosponsor of H.R. 3195 when it was introduced on June 11, 2019 and voted for the bill when it passed through the Natural Resources Committee later that month. A total of 21 Democrats voted in favor; 13 Republicans opposed.

H.R. 3195 provides full, permanent funding of $900 million in offshore oil and gas revenues each year to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which in turn means about $800,000 annually for the Marianas.

The Marianas Land and Water Conservation Fund grant increased 10-fold last year with passage of the John J. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act. Like the Great American Outdoors Act, that bill also was an opportunity for over a hundred separate legislative proposals to piggyback to passage. Included was legislation that Sablan and other non-state area representatives had pushed for years, giving each of their areas a state-share of Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. Previously, the five insular areas and the District of Columbia all split one state-share. For the Marianas that meant only $70,000 on average.

But even with the full state share guaranteed in the Dingell Act, funding for all LWCF grants nationwide was still subject to annual appropriation limits, until yesterday's signing of the Great American Outdoors Act locked in the oil and gas revenues as a permanent funding mechanism. Congressional appropriations have varied widely since the Fund's establishment, with Congress appropriating the fully authorized level of $900 million on only two occasions, in fiscal years 1998 and 2001. ***(PR)***

NEW MVA BOARD MEMBERS

Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors chair Marian Aldan-Pierce swears in newly elected members of the MVA board during the board meeting on Aug. 5, 2020, at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan. From left are Aldan-Pierce, re-elected director Gloria Cavanagh (vice chairwoman), re-elected director Chris Nelson (treasurer), Masato Tezuka, and Ivan Quichocho. The four board members join gubernatorial appointees Agida T. Quitugua (secretary), Warren Villagomez, Viola Alepuyo, and Tom Liu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC ADVISORIES

Emergency power outage today, Aug. 6

There will be an emergency scheduled power interruption today, Aug. 6, 2020, from 9am to 1pm for the areas of As Terlaje, Chalan Tun Antonio Apa, Northern Marianas College, El Toro, Kannat Tabla, Marianas Baptist School and portions of San Vicente.

This will de-energize utility lines so that linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be able to safely replace a cracked concrete power pole near the shoulder outer lane of Isa Drive in San Vicente (before Zori Zori).

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. No water well will be affected during the outage time but may be affected if outage time exceeds the scheduled time. ***(PR)***

Emergency water outage yesterday in Papago and parts of Kagman

There was an emergency water service interruption yesterday, Aug. 5, from 8:30am to 5pm for customers in the areas of Hafey Lane in Kagman and customers along Isa Drive from the Kagman Mobil to Mulberry Lane near the CUC Papago Water Tank.

This was due an 8-inch mainline leak located near Hafey Lane in Kagman. Repairs on the water main were originally scheduled on July 27, 2020, but operators were unable to locate the source of the leak at that time. The repair to the leaking pipe was expected to be completed at 5pm yesterday. ***(PR)***

Power outage tomorrow, Aug. 7,2020

There will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, Aug. 7, 2020, from 8:30am to 12:30pm for the area of Papago.

Power service area(s) affected: are Papago (partials of Papago Dr., Pandanus Dr., Asetga Ln., Piut Ln., and Lala Pl.). No water well nor wastewater lift station will be affected.

This is intended to de-energize the lines so that CUC linemen can safely replace a rotted 3-phase dead-end primary pole within the affected area. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2020

Opening date: July 22, 2020 **Closing date: August 11, 2020**

Positions: (1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-20

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
POWER PLANT BUILDING ROOFING
SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for the Saipan International Airport Power Plant Building Roofing System Replacement. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)).

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The RFP Package is available beginning July 24, 2020, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Power Plant Building Roofing Systems Replacement (RFP-006-20). One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than ***4:00 p.m. Local Time, August 13, 2020***, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

/s/ ***CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO***
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-20-007

Archaeological Services forS19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a new sewerline in Afetna Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The existing Afetna sewer system was privately built and poorly installed due to excessive buildup of the Garment Industry. The project aims to replace the old system with approximately 5000 linear feet of new gravity sewer main with new sewer laterals and the installation of sewer manholes.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
   a. Background research design and work plan;
   b. Archival background information;
   c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
   d. Past planning, research and studies;
   e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
   f. The degree of federal involvement;
   g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
   h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
   i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.

2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.

3. Deliverables
   a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
   b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-20-007: Archaeological Services for S-19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

OPA's Hurst earns fraud examiner designation

The Office of the Public Auditor announced yesterday that Travis Hurst has passed the examination to gain the designation of Certified Fraud Examiner by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Hurst joins an elite group of professionals who are committed to protecting the global economy by exposing fraud and implementing procedures to prevent it from happening in the first place.

In order to become a CFE, Hurst has met a stringent set of criteria and passed a rigorous exam administered by the ACFE while also agreeing to abide by the CFE Code of Professional Ethics. Hurst has also demonstrated knowledge in four areas critical to the fight against fraud: Fraudulent Financial Transactions, Fraud Prevention and Deterrence, Legal Elements of Fraud, and Fraud Investigation.

The preparation materials and exam itself was made accessible to Hurst through the Technical Assistance Program or TAP provided by the Department of the Interior. OPA applied for and was awarded the TAP grant in 2018.

Hurst has been employed with OPA since April 2018 and is currently an Investigator II. Hurst has over 14 years of law enforcement experience. In 2007, Hurst received his Associate of Applied Sciences in Information Technology. Later, he worked toward his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and received his degree in 2011. The same year, Hurst graduated from a Law Enforcement Academy in Florida. In 2012, Hurst obtained his Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security. Furthermore, Hurst has attended numerous training, including Public Corruption Investigations Program; Contract and Grant Fraud sponsored by the council of the Inspector's General on Integrity and Efficiency; and training covered by the National Computer Forensics Institute United States Secret Service.

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 85,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud world-wide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession.

CFE designees represent the highest standards held by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and possess expertise in all aspects of the anti-fraud profession. CFEs have the ability to examine data and records to detect and trace fraudulent transactions; interview suspects to obtain information and confessions; write investigation reports; advise clients as to their findings; testify at trial; understand the law as it relates to fraud and fraud investigations; and identify the underlying factors that motivate individuals to commit fraud. CFEs on six continents have investigated more than 1 million suspected cases of civil and criminal fraud. ***(OPA)***

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.5-magnitude quake in Guam

At 9:13am on Aug. 4 2020, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 253 kilometers west-southwest of Merizo Village in Guam. Currently, no Tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.9-magnitude quake on Saipan

At 11:08pm on Aug. 3, 2020, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 268km northeast of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami advisories or warnings issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information contact the CNMI State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-020

SUBMISSION DATE: August 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Government House No. 1343 Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 18, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government House No. 1343**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 24, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-019

SUBMISSION DATE: September 9, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Removal and Replacement of Road Signs and Traffic Control Devices, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 25, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 2, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan , MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447/234-7670; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Notice of Program Availability
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – COVID

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the availability of the ESG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of $1,090,630 in ESG-COVID funds to provide financial assistance for CNMI households, specifically for rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits. The assistance period is for a total of (12) months and will be on a first come, first serve basis. NMHC has allocated 25% of the grant for the elderly and disabled population. The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria
- Must be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in substandard conditions which poses an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income). See FY 2020 HUD income limits below
- Must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options

Application Steps
- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net. Link: https://nmhcgov.net/resources/files/2020%20ESG%20Pre-application%20V2%20updated%2006_29_20.pdf
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices, the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

If you have already applied for the ESG-COVID program, the NMHC case workers are currently assessing your pre-applications and you will be contacted for the next steps. Furthermore, NMHC will continue to distribute applications until Friday, August 14, 2020, and because we have already exceeded our projected number of families to be assisted, NMHC will STOP accepting applications on Friday, August 21, 2020, 4:30 pm until further notice. Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, Tricia Tenorio, Planner, or Sweetielyn Sokau, Planning Assistant, at the 234-6866/7689/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan , MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447/234-7670; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Notice of Program Availability
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)– COVID (Second Allocation)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the availability of the CDBG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 30, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of $274,635 in CDBG-COVID funds to provide emergency housing assistance, specifically mortgage assistance, for CNMI households experiencing financial hardship, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Qualified Alien;
- Must be employed or have income;
- Gross Household Income must be less than 80% of the NMI Area Median Income (AMI) for FY 2020 as determined by HUD;
- Must be impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic (e.g. reduction of hours, furloughed but receiving income such as PUA);
- Must show proof of delinquency on a mortgage.
- HUD or NMHC Assisted Loan Borrowers (e.g. HOME Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program) will not qualify as this will be considered a duplication of benefits.
- SBA or USDA RD borrowers must first avail of their respective programs' COVID-19 assistance.

Information on the CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance
- First come, first serve basis;
- Qualified Households will be assisted for a maximum of 3 months;
- If a household is more than 3 months delinquent with their mortgage, they must first pay the outstanding balance above the 3 months' delinquency amount before the assistance is given;
- NMHC will pay the lending institution directly;
- The assistance will be in the amount of up to $900/month for a period of 3 months.

Application Steps
- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices, the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

Please note that if you have already applied for the CDBG-COVID program, our case workers are continuously working on case assessments and you will be contacted for the next steps. Furthermore, NMHC will continue to distribute applications and will STOP accepting applications when the projected number of borrowers to be assisted has been reached. The public will be informed of the last day for application acceptance. Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact the Mortgage and Credit Division at 234-6866/7689/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 155

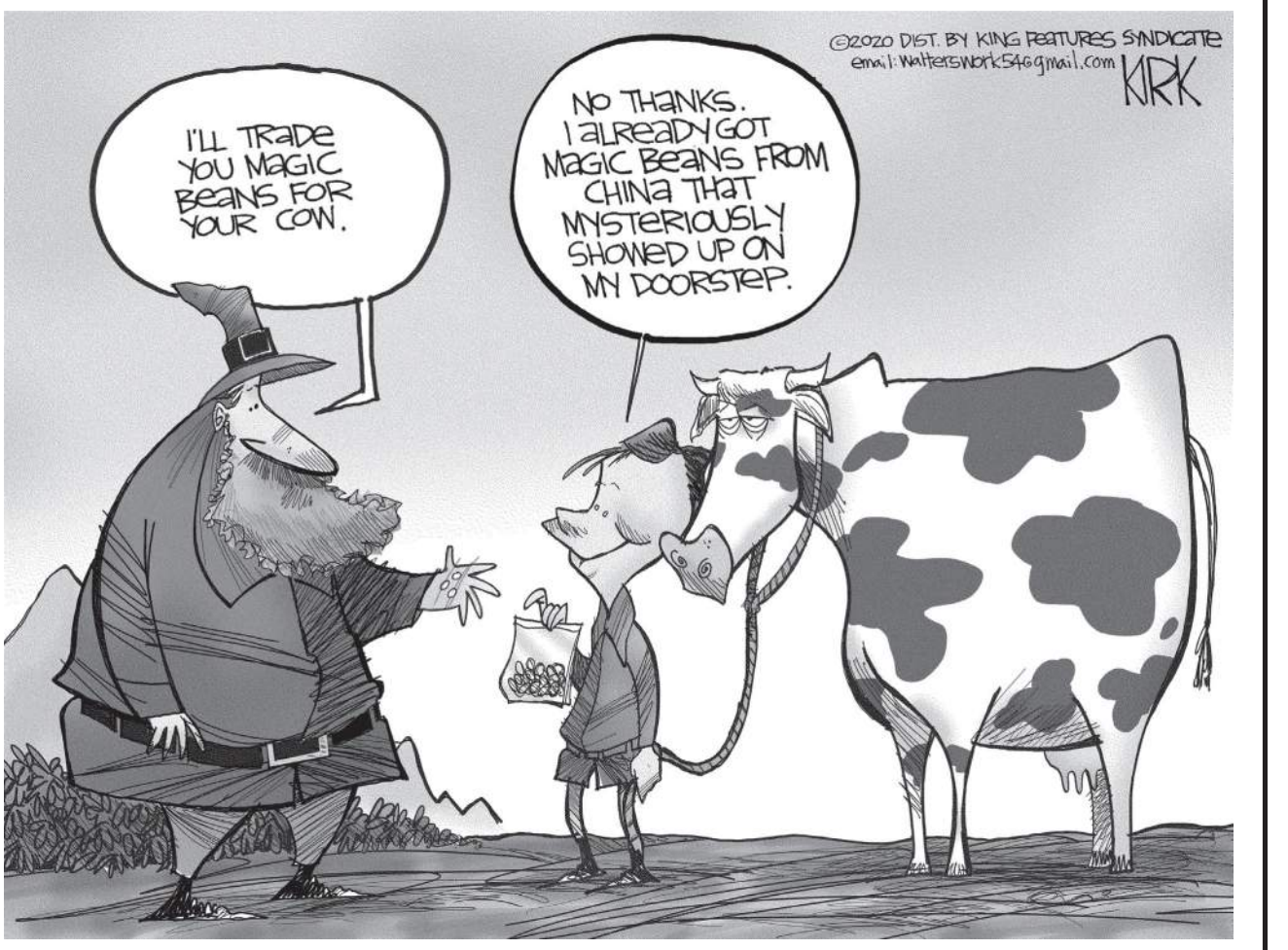
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


©2020 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
email: WattersWork546gmail.com
KIRK
I'LL TRADE YOU MAGIC BEANS FOR YOUR COW.
NO THANKS. I ALREADY GOT MAGIC BEANS FROM CHINA THAT MYSTERIOUSLY SHOWED UP ON MY DOORSTEP.

EDITORIAL

Global view of US leadership hinders foreign policy

The good news in Gallup's recently released global poll on world leadership is that the U.S. slightly improved. The bad news is that approval across 135 nations is only 33%—just ahead of China (32%) and Russia (30%), but well behind Germany (44%), which leads the quartet of consequential countries. Even worse, disapproval of U.S. leadership is at a record 42%—twice as high as Germany (21%) and even higher than China (30%) and Russia (33%).

That a democracy that has historically been a beacon of freedom and human rights is seen as just above repressive regimes in China and Russia should provoke change no matter who wins the November election. The low standing makes it much harder for foreign governments to work with the U.S. to counter countries like China and Russia—or to work with these superpowers on challenges that can only be solved through global efforts.

Strains between countries and populism across countries may have weakened international institutions. "But there still are massive multilateral problems" such as climate change, global health, trade and setting standards in global technology, among others, that need cross-country cooperation, Reva Goujon, the managing director for intelligence at the strategic advisory firm Martin + Crumpton Group, said during a Gallup webinar last week.

And just as important as "power over others" is "power with others," Joseph Nye, professor emeritus at Harvard, added during the webinar. Nye, credited with coining the term "soft power," said "the ability to project a moral image is a great asset for a country's soft power. …It not only increases the attraction of the leader domestically, it increases the attraction of the country internationally," which Nye cited as a key factor in creating either an "enabling environment" or "disenabling environment" for world leaders to agree to U.S. initiatives.

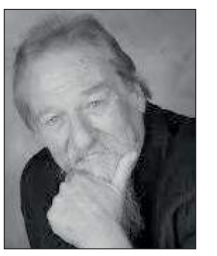
U.S. leadership is seen as significantly less attractive now than in the last year of the Obama era (48% approval), and the decline comes right when alliances are needed most. Across Europe, for instance, a record 61% disapprove of U.S. leadership—a dismal data point that was likely made worse by President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw about 12,000 troops from Germany, a move that Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, called a "grave error."

While Trump justified his decision by citing Germany's level of military spending, Berlin and other European capitals will likely interpret it as another slight to NATO. "It is a slap in the face at a friend and ally when we should instead be drawing closer in our mutual commitment to deter Russian and Chinese aggression," Romney said in a statement. "The move may temporarily play well in domestic politics, but its consequences will be lasting and harmful to American interests."

See GLOBAL on Next Page

Aug. 6, 1945: The milk run to Hiroshima

By DON FARREL
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Don Farrell is author of the acclaimed book Tinian and The Bomb*, available on line at https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07BMTVF1K*

At 04:15 Sunday morning, Aug. 5, 1945, Gen. Curtis LeMay, now deputy commander, U.S. Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific, received an updated weather report from China. The skies would not be clear over southern Japan until Aug. 6. The first atomic mission was to proceed.

Capt. Tom Hill, USN, Admiral Nimitz' liaison officer to the Manhattan Project, passed the order to Col. Elmer E. Kirkpatrick, Jr., the Manhattan Project liaison officer on Tinian, who notified Capt. William S. "Deak" Parsons, USN, commander, Project Alberta, the team he had organized at Los Alamos to assemble and load atomic bombs in the field. The final assembly and loading of Little Boy, the uranium-based atomic bomb, was set in motion.

Although the Japanese knew that their war was lost, the Japanese military leadership, unwilling to accept their defeat, pressed every Japanese to commit, in effect, national "*seppuku*," or ritual suicide. Thousands of men, women and children, American, British, Japanese, and Chinese, continued to die.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The aerial view of Hiroshima shows the A.P., the aiming point. Those that made the target map did not know that the A.P. was the Dr. Shima Clinic.

Inside Assembly Building No. 1, Dr. Edward Doll inserted the final critical parts into Little Boy number L-11. The bomb was trailered one-half mile to the loading pit, where a specialized team loaded it into *Enola Gay*. The plane was then towed to a hardstand where a double guard was set around it for the night.

Capt. Parsons became concerned that should *Enola Gay* crash on takeoff, the bomb could go nuclear and destroy half of Tinian, including the entire Manhattan Project team. In conversation with Rear Adm. William R. Purnell, member, the President's Military Policy Committee, and Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Farrell, deputy director of the Manhattan Project, Parsons decided to arm the bomb after *Enola Gay* had taken off. Both Purnell and Farrell agreed.

The mission crews, led by Col. Tibbets in *Enola Gay* carrying Little Boy, Ma. Charles Sweeney in *The Great Artiste* carrying the blast measurement equipment, and Capt. George Marquart in *Necessary Evil* carrying the photographic equipment, arrived at their aircraft at about 0100 on the morning of Aug. 6, 1945. The *Enola Gay* was flooded by klieg lights. Video cameras were rolling and still cameras snapping. Tibbets ran his handpicked crew through the preflight procedures. Capt. Parsons, the weaponeer, and 2nd. Lt. Morris Jeppson, his assistant, boarded *Enola Gay*. Tibbets fired up the engines at 02:00.

The weather aircraft left Runway Able at 02:30. Each was to report actual weather conditions at the proposed targets to Tibbets in *Enola Gay*. Meanwhile Capt. Chuck McKnight would take the *Top Secret* to Iwo Jima as the backup aircraft, should the *Enola Gay* have a mechanical problem en route to Japan. Col. Kirkpatrick had visited Iwo Jima to have a bomb loading pit created off the one runway already prepared for B-29s. He would fly to Iwo Jima in a C-54 with a bomb loading team to stand by, just in case.

Tibbets managed a wave at a cameraman then drove *Enola Gay* to the west end of Runway Able. Tibbets faced *Enola Gay* into a light easterly wind. With the checklist completed, Tibbets

See HIROSHIMA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Apology and commendation

I want to commend the COVID-19 Task Force and all of the personnel associated with the testing of travelers who are arriving daily and at airport as well as those operating the quarantine facilitiy at Kanoa Resort.

I recently returned from off-island and unexpectantly and reluctantly was required to spend five days under quarantine at the Kanoa. I had anticipated being required to spend 14 days in home quarantine and was thus upset when told that I had to be quarantined for five days at the Kanoa Resort. I had read the comments about unsanitary conditions and poor food and was not at all pleased with this requirement. Surprisingly, I found these claims were incorrect as far as the current conditions.

The room that I was assigned was clean, adequate, and recently updated to accommodate quarantined parties. I was provided with sufficient, clean, and adequate towels and linens for my five-day stay, as well as shampoo and soap. The room equaled a typical three-star facility and was adequate in all aspects with television, wireless internet, refrigerator, and an ocean view. The stay was made much more favorable by a policy that allowed family members to supplement accommodations with "care packages" that I used to bring in a Keurig coffeemaker and other small amenities.

I was particularly concerned about the food, having heard the stories about its inadequacy, but it was fine, with each meal presenting a balance of protein, vegetables, carbohydrates, and a dessert. I assumed that a professional dietician was involved in menu planning as it appeared that significant planning had been used in menu selection. The food was very good and included varieties of seafood and meats with vegetables, salads and fruit at each serving. Someone took the time to carefully consider this menu and all items were well prepared.

I want to take this opportunity to apologize to the coronavirus staff for my initial reaction to learning that I was to be quarantined. I strongly objected to this decision as I was expecting a 14-day at-home quarantine. My gruffness could be attributed to the fact that I had just completed a one-hour flight from Detroit to Newark, NJ, a 13-hour flight to Tokyo, a three-hour flight to Guam, a seven-hour wait in a chair at the Guam airport in order to avoid their quarantine and finally a three-hour flight to Saipan. This grueling trip would provide a bad disposition to anyone other than Mother Teresa. It did not help that I am a grumpy old attorney even on a good day. I just wanted to go home, take a shower and collapse.

In retrospect, I want to commend all of the people involved in the testing and processing of airport arrivals as you are doing an excellent job protecting our community. It was done professionally, smoothly, and quickly considering the complexities and legal issues involved. I was surprised that, at 11 o'clock at night, senior management of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. were present at the airport, including Esther Muña and John Tagabuel who were both helping in all aspects of operations, including filling out forms, assisting in testing, and answering questions. The people manning this process undoubtedly take a lot of abuse for their decisions to quarantine individuals and yet they maintain their professional demeanor.

Thank you to all of the personnel involved in the testing and protection process. You are doing a great job and better than I have seen in my recent travels to Guam, New Jersey, Detroit, or Tokyo. Again, I apologize for any unappreciation of your efforts that I may have exhibited.

Jim Stump
Papago, Saipan

HIROSHIMA

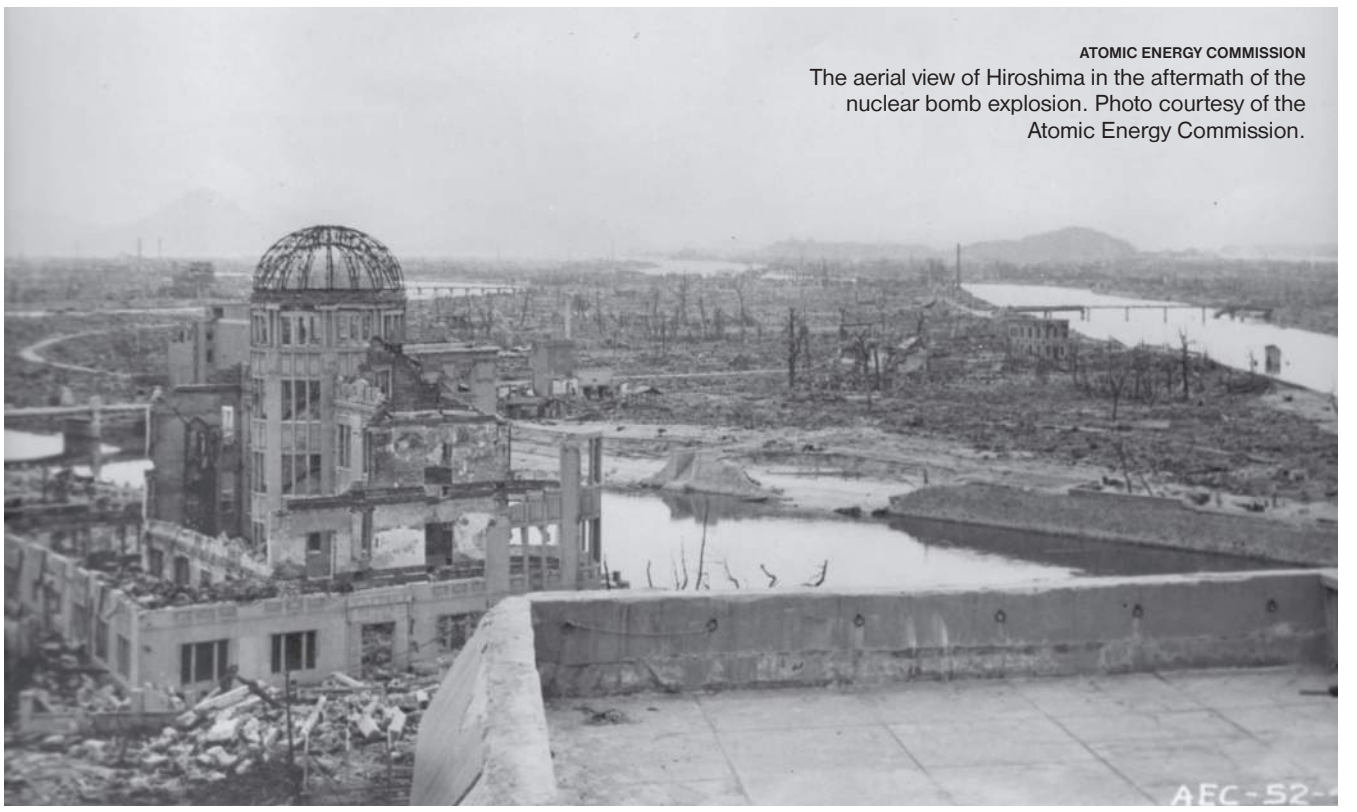
From Page 8

and his co-pilot, Capt. Robert A. Lewis, pushed the throttles forward to the max, then released the breaks. Overloaded, with two extra crew members, an extra 700 gallon in auxiliary fuel tanks and a 9,500-lb bomb aboard, *Enola Gay* lumbered down the 8,500-foot runway. The plane had to reach 155 miles per hour to lift off. As the end of the runway approached, Lewis balked and shouted at Tibbets to pull up. Tibbets paid him no attention. Dr. Norman Ramsey was standing near the end of the runway. As *Enola Gay* passed him, Ramsey saw the big bird's wheels lift off the ground with bright blue flames flaring out of the engines as *Enola Gay* fought for altitude and gradually banked to the north. It was 02:45am.

Cruising at 4,700 feet, Capt. Parsons and his assistant climbed into the bomb bay and inserted the explosive charges behind the uranium "bullet" that would slam into the uranium target and spark the nuclear reaction. They flew on toward their rendezvous at Iwo Jima, knowing they had a live atomic bomb on board.

The only thing that had been proven at Alamogordo on July 16 was that the new plutonium gadget could explode. The uranium device had never been tested. They didn't have enough purified Uranium-235 to make one for testing. Dropping Little Boy from 30,000 feet would be just as much an experiment as had been the Trinity Test.

The *Great Artist*, carrying equipment to measure the strength of the bomb, and *Necessary Evil*, carrying photo equipment and official observers, joined up with *Enola Gay* at 06:07 over Iwo Jima and headed to Japan. At 08:30am Tibbets received a message from Eatherly: "Y-3, Q-3, B-2, C-1", which roughly translated to "skies clear over Hiroshima." Tibbets' handpicked navigator, Capt. Theodore "Dutch" Van Kirk, set a course for Hiroshima and his handpicked flight engineer, Tech Sgt. Wyatt E. Duzenbury, put them on the target on time. No fighters. No flak. A "milk run" to Hiroshima.



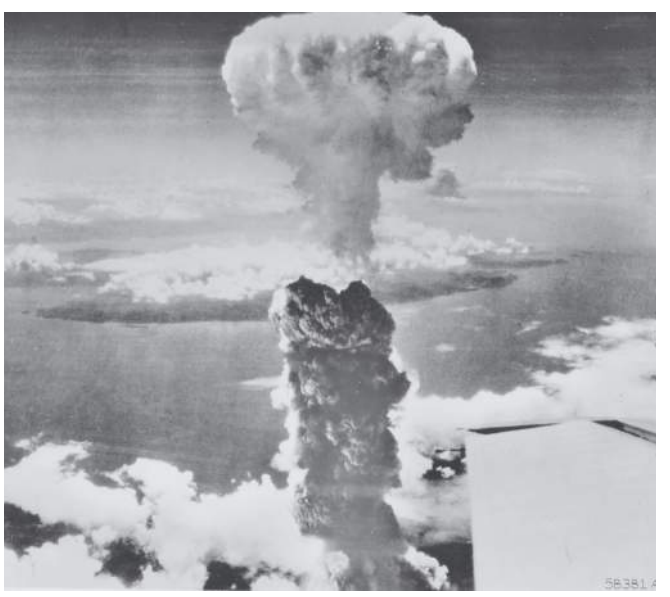
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
The aerial view of Hiroshima in the aftermath of the nuclear bomb explosion. Photo courtesy of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Japanese paid no attention to three lone B-29s. They did not go to the air raid shelters. At 09:09am Tibbets turned the plane over to his handpicked bombardier, Maj. Thomas Ferebee, who released the bomb at 09:15:17am. It fell for 43 seconds, which seemed an eternity to Capt. Parsons. Would it go off? Would it turn out to be a dud? Then, Little Boy exploded at about 1,950 feet above Hiroshima with the force of about 15,000 tons of dynamite. A giant radioactive cloud began to rise toward the plane. Tibbets put *Enola Gay* into a tight, diving 159-degree right turn to escape the bomb blast.

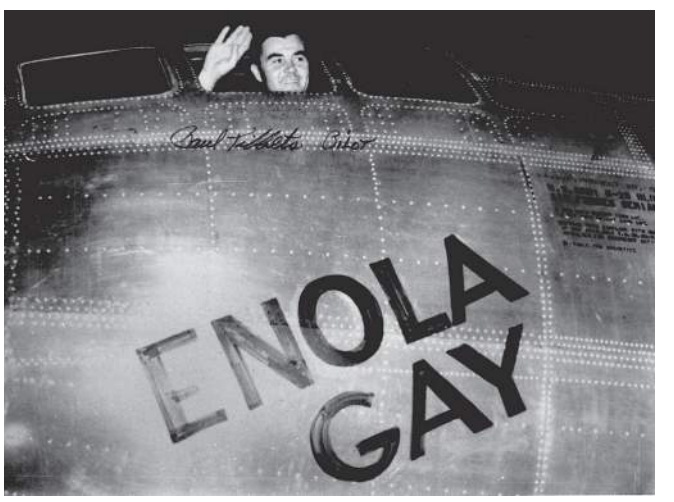
With no damage to the aircraft, Tibbets headed straight for Tinian. There, Gen. Carl Spaatz awaited *Enola Gay*'s return, pinning the Distinguished Service Medal on Tibbets' service overalls.

The Project Alberta team turned its attention to Fat Man, the plutonium-based bomb, in Assembly Building No. 3. The plan had been to drop two in succession, a left-right combination to knock out the Japanese.

LeMay received another weather report from China. The weather was turning bad.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The mushroom cloud after Little Boy exploded over Hiroshima.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Col. Tibbets wave to the photographer from the *Enola Gay* cockpit.

GLOBAL

From Page 8

Approval ratings are particularly low in key NATO nations such as Germany (12%), France (23%), Italy (21%) and the United Kingdom (25%). "When you see open divisions between what are supposed to be like-minded countries, between Europe and the United States, that lack of a united front is an opportunity for U.S. adversaries," Goujon said. And while the data there is somewhat better, open divisions exist among key Pacific allies, too (Japan, 34% approve/40% disapprove; South Korea, 41% approve/47% disapprove).

The survey was taken in pre-pandemic days. Next year's poll will reflect perceptions of America's coronavirus response and how it handles its election, among other issues.

Even in these deeply divided times, there should be consensus that the country must do better at home so that it can do better abroad.

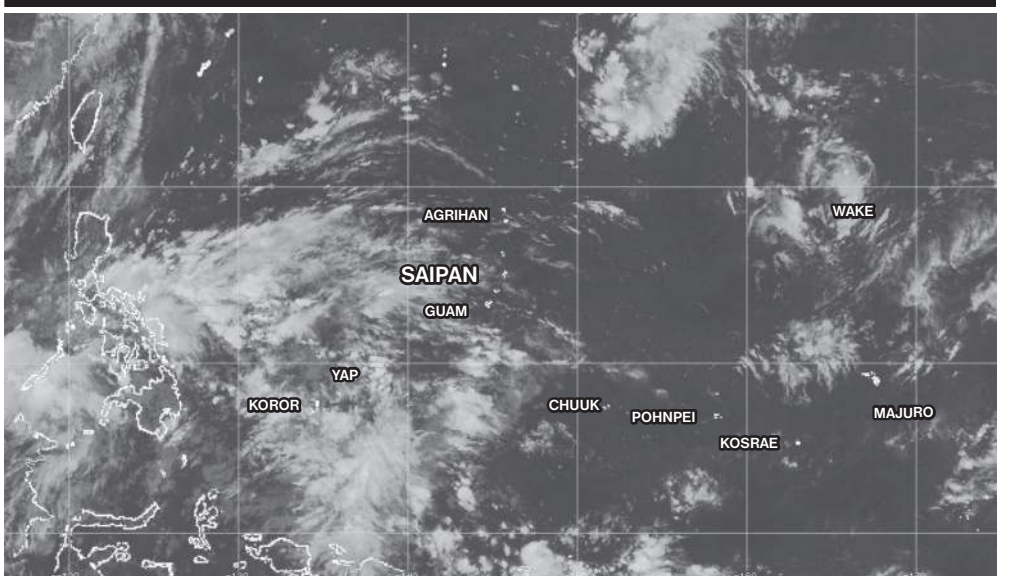
(c) 2020 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
90° 79°	90° 79°	88° 76°	88° 76°	88° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:33 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overnight surface analysis shows the Marianas within a series of surface troughs. The trough to the west is producing showers and thunderstorms over a large area with high-level cloud cover spreading eastward over the Marianas. Closer to, and just east of, the Marianas, isolated showers and thunderstorms are present. Buoys show combined seas of 4 to 6 feet across the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:57 AM	8:45 PM
Friday	-	8:46 AM	9:22 PM
Saturday	-	9:33 AM	9:57 PM
Sunday	-	10:19 AM	10:32 PM
Monday	-	11:05 AM	11:08 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thundershowers	60° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	89° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	86° / 65°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	85° / 70°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Paris	Sunny	91° / 66°
Busan	Thunderstorms	80° / 77°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	92° / 70°
San Francisco	Cloudy	68° / 54°
Seoul	Rain	78° / 74°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	89° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:39 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19
8:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93
3:42 PM	LOW TIDE	0.12
10:24 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

Håfa Brand *represents* UNIFIED MARIANAS

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Håfa Brand aims to represent the people of Guam and CNMI as one through the style and designs of their products.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Feel the unified Marianas spirit in every Håfa Brand clothing.

Håfa Brand specializes on a variety of apparel, headwear, accessories, and souvenirs that represent Marianas roots and dedication to culture. Born on Saipan but grew up in Guam, founder and owner Joseph Roy "JR" M. Sablan holds on to the vision to bring the two islands together through Håfa Brand.

"Throughout history, colonial powers have unintentionally divided the Marianas despite being geographically, an archipelago with people who share the same language and culture. As a Chamorro born on Saipan and raised in Guam, this inspired me to develop a brand considered a hybrid representing the Mariana Islands as one," Sablan said.

"Our brand logo bears two question marks—one right side up and the other and inverted and upside down. Our name 'Håfa' is Chamorro both spoken in Guam and the CNMI and when translated to English is 'what?' Our universal code, 1341, is actually the sum of the area codes of Guam 671 and CNMI 670 creating a code for a unified Marianas," Sablan added.

Established five years ago, Håfa Brand was able to grow the brand via e-commerce sales. "I chose retail business for a number of reasons. First, apparel is a form of expression and representation of oneself. For an islander who has moved away from their home island, apparel is a big way to represent where they come from. Second, style of clothing apparel can also bring together people who identify with it because apparel can bring people together, most especially if it represents something meaningful," Sablan said.

For more information, call (671) 787-1341

"Håfa Brand aims to tailor inventory that follows the various styles that appeal to its clientele. Products are designed to fit a variety of lifestyles incorporating class, sophistication and simplicity whether you are a surfer, musician, partygoer, or fashionista, we have an array of collections," Sablan added.

According to Sablan, he is happy to see the fruits of his hard work as many look at the same vision that he sees in keeping the Marianas' culture alive. "There are many people throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who represent the Håfa Brand and appreciate our mission…This is a community that appreciates the meaning and mission behind the brand, enjoys products that represents where they are from, they like the unique concepts and designs of the products because it is the unified brand of the Marianas," he said.

"Håfa Brand will continue to represent both the people of Guam and CNMI by providing products that exhibit unity of the people, culture, pride, and language… The brand always aims for people to feel the authenticity, unique character of the brand, and the meaning it represents apart from others," he added.

For more information, call (671) 787-1341 or send them a message on Facenook or Instragram "Håfa Brand."

Passengers can now text cleaning and safety questions directly to United Airlines

CHICAGO—United Airlines recently launched a new chat function—the United Automated Assistant—to give customers a contactless option to receive immediate access to information about cleaning and safety procedures put in place due to COVID-19. Customers can text "Clean" to FLYUA (35982) and get answers to questions about masks, boarding procedures, touchless check-in options and more, without having to call, search online or wait in a line for an answer. The United Automated Assistant is one of many recent innovations that have been developed to modernize the airline's service and create a more seamless experience for our customers. This launch follows another recently announced digital product that allows United customers on standby and upgrade lists to receive text notifications once they have been cleared and assigned a seat, saving them time and further limiting person-to-person interactions.

"The travel experience has changed a lot from just a few months ago—we've overhauled our safety and cleaning procedures and this new text functionality makes it easier for our customers to stay informed," said Linda Jojo, executive vice president for Technology and chief digital officer. "Whether you want to know the latest about our social distancing and face covering policies or see how the boarding and deplaning process has changed, our Automated Assistant is designed to meet the customer where they are and get them answers in a simple, fast and easy way."

The United Automated Assistant answers customers questions like:

- How is United keeping airports cleaner and safer?
- Are United Club locations still open?
- How can I prepare for an upcoming trip?
- What is the quality of the air onboard a plane?
- How are you cleaning and disinfecting your planes?
- Are there any changes to service during flight?

The United Automated Assistant is part of the airline's United CleanPlus program, an effort to put health and safety at the forefront of the entire customer experience, that includes partnerships with Clorox and the Cleveland Clinic, a mandatory mask policy, electrostatic spraying, touchless check-in capabilities and a first-of-its kind, pre-boarding health self-assessment for passengers.

This week, United started requiring customers to wear a face covering in the more than 360 airports where the airline operates around the world, in addition to onboard the aircraft, and is now running the high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration systems at full strength on all mainline aircraft during the entire boarding and deplaning process, helping to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Earlier this month, United debuted new text alerts for passengers on standby and upgrade lists. Cleared upgrade and standby customers, who have opted-in to receive text notifications about their flights, will now receive a text message asking them to refresh their boarding pass on the United app, where they will be able to find their seat assignment and boarding information. This new process will help further minimize touchpoints between gate agents and customers to create a more touchless travel experience. Other measures put in place include:

- Limiting Number of Passengers on Board
- The airline is also taking steps to limit the overall number of people onboard and separate customers wherever possible. United switched to a larger plane 66 times a day in May and June, for a total of more than 4,000 flights during those months, creating more space onboard. As a result, the airline's consolidated average seat factor—or the percentage of occupied seats including customers and non-revenue passengers—was 38% in May; 57% in June and is expected to be about 45% in July, with less than 15% of flights operating with more than 70% seats filled.
- When United flights are less full, the airline's advanced automated seating tool assigns seats in a way that maximizes the space on board—and the distance between customers. And since May, United has been contacting customers via email and through the United app—as much as 24 hours in advance—if their flight is expected to be more than 70% full and gives them options to switch to different, less full flights for no additional fees. Customers also have the option to cancel their flight and receive a credit for future travel. To date, the overwhelming majority of customers choose to keep their travel plans the same.

In addition to the vital initiatives mentioned above, several of the airline's precautionary measures to further ensure a cleaner environment include:

At Check-In

- Implementing temperature checks for every employee working at all stations throughout the airline's system
- Installing sneeze guards at check-in and gate podiums
- Promoting social distancing with floor decals to help customers stand six feet apart
- Becoming the first U.S. carrier to roll out touchless check-in capabilities for customers with bags

At the Gate

- Disinfecting high-touch areas such as door handles, handrails, elevator buttons, telephones and computers
- Providing hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Rolling out Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic Sprayers in select markets to disinfect gate areas at United's hub airports
- Enabling customers to self-scan boarding passes
- Boarding fewer customers at a time and, after preboarding, boarding from the back of the plane to the front
- Introducing real-time seat assignment update text and email notifications to further United's touchless airport experience

On Board

- Using electrostatic spraying to disinfect 95%+ of aircraft
- Disinfecting high-touch areas – such as tray tables and armrests – prior to boarding
- Reducing contact between flight attendants and customers during snack and beverage service
- Deplaning in groups of five rows at a time to reduce crowding
- Providing customers with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, and onboard items including pillows and blankets upon request. ***(PR)***

Nation

Tropical storm Isaias whips up eastern US, killing at least 6

AP
Boats are piled on each other at the Southport Marina following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020.

WINDSOR, N.C. (AP)—At least six people were killed as Tropical Storm Isaias spawned tornadoes and dumped rain Tuesday along the U.S. East Coast after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina, where it caused floods and fires that displaced dozens of people.

Two people died when Isaias spun off a tornado that struck a North Carolina mobile home park. Another person died in Pennsylvania when their vehicle was overtaken by water and swept downstream. Two others were killed by falling trees toppled by the storm in Maryland and New York City, and a sixth person died in Delaware when a tree branch fell on them, authorities said.

Isaias sustained top winds of up to 65 mph (105 kph) more than 18 hours after coming ashore, but it was down to 45 mph max winds as of 10:50 p.m. EDT Tuesday, according to the National Hurricane Center. The storm's center was about 45 miles southeast of Montreal, moving northeast into Canada at about 38 mph (61 kph).

As Isaias sped northward, flooding threats followed. The Schuylkill River in Philadelphia was projected to crest early Wednesday at 15.4 feet (4.7 meters), its highest level in more than 150 years. By Tuesday night, the river had already topped its banks in low-lying Manayunk, turning bar-lined Main Street into a coffee-colored canal.

Aerial video by WRAL-TV showed fields of debris where rescue workers in brightly colored shirts picked through splintered boards and other wreckage of the Windsor, North Carolina, mobile home park where two people were killed. Emergency responders searching the area Tuesday afternoon found no other casualties, and several people initially feared missing had all been accounted for, said Ron Wesson, chairman of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. He said about 12 people were hospitalized.

"It doesn't look real; it looks like something on TV. Nothing is there," Bertie County Sheriff John Holley told reporters, saying 10 mobile homes had been destroyed. "All my officers are down there at this time. Pretty much the entire trailer park is gone."

In eastern Pennsylvania, a 44-year-old Allentown woman was killed after encountering high waters on a street in Upper Saucon Township that swept her vehicle downstream Tuesday afternoon, the Lehigh County coroner's office said.

While in New York City, a massive tree fell and crushed a van in the Briarwood section of Queens, killing Mario Siles, a 60-year-old construction contractor who was inside the vehicle, police said. A woman in Mechanicsville, Maryland, died when a tree crashed onto her car during stormy conditions, said Cpl. Julie Yingling of the St. Mary's County sheriff's office.

In Delaware, authorities said a woman was outside assessing storm damage when she was hit and killed by a falling tree branch.

Isaias toggled between hurricane and tropical storm strength as it churned toward the East Coast. Fueled by warm ocean waters, the storm got a late burst of strength as a rejuvenated hurricane with top sustained winds of 85 mph (136 km/h) before coming ashore late Monday near Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. Its tropical storm status was sustained, but weakened, as it headed north into Canada on Tuesday night.

Before making landfall late Monday, Isaias killed two people in the Caribbean and battered the Bahamas before brushing past Florida.

Tornadoes were confirmed by the National Weather Service in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. Power outages also spread as trees fell, with more than 3.7 million customers losing electricity across multiple states as of 10:15 p.m. EDT Tuesday, according to PowerOutage.US, which tracks utility reports. New York City's power utility said it saw more outages from Isaias than from any storm except Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

'Too many are selfish': US nears 5 million virus cases

BOSTON (AP)—Fourth of July gatherings, graduation parties, no-mask weddings, crowded bars—there are reasons the U.S. has racked up more than 155,000 coronavirus deaths, by far the most of any country, and is fast approaching an off-the-charts 5 million confirmed infections, easily the highest in the world.

Many Americans have resisted wearing masks and social distancing, calling such precautions an overreaction or an infringement on their liberty. Public health experts say the problem has been compounded by confusing and inconsistent guidance from politicians and a patchwork quilt of approaches to containing the scourge by county, state and federal governments.

"The thing that's maddening is country after country and state after state have shown us how we can contain the virus," said Dr. Jonathan Quick of the Duke Global Health Institute. "It's not like we don't know what works. We do."

Confirmed infections in the U.S. have topped 4.7 million, with new cases running at more than 60,000 a day. While that's down from a peak of well over 70,000 in the second half of July, cases are on the rise in 26 states, many in the South and West, and deaths are climbing in 35 states.

On average, the number of COVID-19 deaths per day in the U.S. over the past two weeks has gone from about 780 to 1,056, according to an Associated Press analysis.

In Massachusetts, health officials are investigating at least a half-dozen new clusters of cases connected to such events as a lifeguard party, a high school graduation party, a prom party, an unsanctioned football camp and a packed harbor cruise trip.

One recent house party on Cape Cod attended by as many as 60 people led to more than a dozen new cases and prompted some restaurants to close or limit service at the height of tourist season.

Hot spots around the U.S. are popping up in what once seemed like ideal places to ride out the outbreak: rural, less populated and with lots of outdoor space. In South Dakota, a spike erupted at a Christian youth summer camp in the Black Hills, with cases growing to 96 among 328 people who attended.

"We're at a point where there's enough spread of COVID-19 that people throughout the U.S. are at an increased likelihood of encountering the virus and getting exposed," University of Florida epidemiologist Dr. Cindy Prins said.

She added: "This is a behavioral disease right now for a lot of people." Prevention means "changing our behavior, and it's so hard for humans to do. We're social creatures."

In Mississippi, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves grudgingly reversed course and announced a statewide order requiring the wearing of masks because of a resurgence of the virus. He also delayed the start of the school year for upper grades in eight hard-hit counties.

Experts: Obstacles to charging police in Breonna Taylor case

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Despite mounting public pressure to file criminal charges nearly five months after Breonna Taylor's death, prosecutors may face significant obstacles to bringing homicide-related charges against police officers who were shot at when sent to her house with a warrant, legal experts said.

Tensions have swelled in her home town and spread far afield as activists, professional athletes and social media stars push for action while investigators plead for more patience. The warrant also has been called into question and, with federal officials looking into potential civil rights abuses, the case could reach beyond the officers on the scene that night.

Taylor, a 26-year-old Louisville emergency medical tech studying to become a nurse, was shot multiple times March 13 after being roused from sleep by police at her door. The warrant was approved as part of a narcotics investigation into a suspect who lived across town, and no drugs were found at her home.

Attorney General Daniel Cameron, the first African American elected to the job in Kentucky, has declined to put a timetable on his decision since taking over the case in May.

"It's a tough issue. He has to figure out whether there's probable cause to believe that there was an unreasonable use of force" by the officers, said Christopher Slobogin, director of the criminal justice program at Vanderbilt University. Slobogin said attorneys for the officers would certainly raise the warrant as a defense in a criminal case.

Cameron has seen increasing pressure from protesters in recent weeks. Dozens of activists who went to his Louisville home were arrested after they wouldn't leave his yard, and last week, an armed militia marched into downtown and demanded that Cameron make his decision within a month. Taylor's family and multiple cultural luminaries—from LeBron James to Oprah Winfrey—have called for three police officers who were at her home to be charged with her killing. Oprah put Taylor on the cover of her O magazine this month.

Taylor's boyfriend, Kenny Walker, was with her at the apartment and fired a shot at Louisville police Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly after the door was broken down. Mattingly was struck in the leg and returned fire, along with other officers who were outside the apartment.

Taylor, unarmed, was shot several times in her hallway and died on the scene. The officers on the scene were not wearing body cameras and the department has said there is no video of the raid.

The warrant they were carrying has come under scrutiny, and the police lieutenant who sought it, Joshua Jaynes, has been placed on administrative leave during the investigation. Attorneys for Taylor's family said it was based on erroneous information that a drug dealer was sending packages to Taylor's apartment.

Asia

Urgency to bear witness grows for last Hiroshima victims

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—For nearly 70 years, until he turned 85, Lee Jong-keun hid his past as an atomic bomb survivor, fearful of the widespread discrimination against blast victims that has long persisted in Japan.

But Lee, 92, is now part of a fast-dwindling group of survivors, known as hibakusha, that feels a growing urgency—desperation even—to tell their stories. These last witnesses to what happened 75 years ago this Thursday want to reach a younger generation that they feel is losing sight of the horror.

The knowledge of their dwindling time—the average age of the survivors is more than 83 and many suffer from the long-lasting effects of radiation—is coupled with deep frustration over stalled progress in global efforts to ban nuclear weapons. According to a recent Asahi newspaper survey of 768 survivors, nearly two-thirds said their wish for a nuclear-free world is not widely shared by the rest of humanity, and more than 70% called on a reluctant Japanese government to ratify a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

"We must work harder to get our voices heard, not just mine but those of many other survivors," Lee said in an interview Tuesday at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. "A nuclear weapons ban is the starting point for peace."

"All lives are equal," he added. "As someone who has faced harsh discrimination, that's the other lesson I want to pass on to younger people."

The first U.S. atomic bombing killed 140,000 people in the city of Hiroshima. A second atomic attack on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, killed another 70,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, bringing an end to a conflict that began with its attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 during its attempt to conquer Asia.

Some 20,000 ethnic Korean residents of Hiroshima are believed to have died in the nuclear attack. The city, a wartime military hub, had a large number of Korean workers, including those forced to work without pay at mines and factories under Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

On the morning of Aug. 6, 1945, 16-year-old Lee, a second-generation Korean born in Japan, was on his way to work at Japan's national railway authority in Hiroshima when the uranium bomb nicknamed Little Boy exploded. The whole sky turned yellowish orange, knocking him face first to the ground, Lee said. He suffered severe burns on his neck that took four months to heal.

Back at work, co-workers wouldn't go near him, saying he had "A-bomb disease." Little was known about the effects of the bomb, and some believed radiation was similar to an infectious disease. Prospective marriage partners also worried about genetic damage that could be passed to children.

Lee had been bullied at school because of his Korean background, his classmates ridiculing the smell of kimchi in his lunchbox. Revealing that he was also an A-bomb victim would have meant more trouble. So Lee lived under a Japanese name, Masaichi Egawa, until eight years ago, when he first publicly revealed his identity during a cruise where atomic bomb survivors shared their stories. Until then, he hasn't even told his wife he is hibakusha.

"No ethnic Koreans want to reveal their past as hibakusha," Lee said.

Japanese bomb survivors had no government support until 1957, when their yearslong efforts won official medical support. But a strict screening system has left out many who are still seeking compensation. Assistance for survivors outside Japan was delayed until the 1980s.

The atomic bombings set off a nuclear arms race in the Cold War. The United States justified the bombings as a way to save untold lives by preventing a bloody invasion of mainland Japan to end the war, a view long accepted by many Americans. But Gar Alperovitz, author of "Atomic Diplomacy: Hiroshima and Potsdam and The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb," said at a recent online event that documentary records show wartime American leaders knew of Japan's imminent surrender and the bombings were not necessary militarily.

"I can't live for another 50 years," said Koko Kondo, 75, who was an 8-month-old baby in her mother's arms when their house collapsed from the blast about a kilometer (half a mile) away. "I want each child to live a full life, and that means we have to abolish nuclear weapons right now."

Even after so many years, too many nuclear weapons remain, Kondo said, adding, "We are not screaming loud enough for the whole world to hear."

Kondo, who survived the blast as a baby, is the daughter of the Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto, one of six atomic bomb survivors featured in John Hersey's book "Hiroshima." She struggled for decades until she reached middle age to overcome the pain she experienced in her teens and the rejection by her fiance.

She was almost 40 when she decided to follow her father's path and become a peace activist. She was inspired by his last sermon, in which he spoke about devoting his life to Hiroshima's recovery.

This year, the frustration of survivors is greater because peace events leading up to the Aug. 6 memorial have been largely canceled or scaled back amid the coronavirus pandemic.

For the first time in over a decade, Keiko Ogura won't provide English guided tours of Hiroshima's Peace Park.

Ogura was 8 when she saw the searing bright flash outside her house, about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from ground zero. Smashed to the ground, she was woken by her little brother's wails. The rubble of their house was burning.

Crowds of people with severe burns, their hair charred into curls, headed to a shrine near her home, grunting and asking for water. Two people dropped dead after receiving water from her, a scene that haunted her for years. She blamed herself for surviving when so many others died.

Ogura's relatives and friends told her to hide her status as a hibakusha or nobody would marry her. She kept her past to herself for decades, until her husband, a peace activist, died and she decided to continue his efforts. She set up a group of interpreters for peace.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

✝ *Martha Villagomez Bantolino*

Born to life on July 18, 1937 & called home by our heavenly Father on July 31, 2020

Her memory will live on in the hearts of her loving:

Husband: Oscar M. Bantolino

Brother: Jim Henry & Mary Mangtamag

Sister: Ramona S. Hossain

Children & Spouse:
Theodosia K. Sanchez & Eugenio L. Villagomez & Family
Sabina K. & Ramon P. Aldan & Family
Vincente & Josephine King & Family
†Victoria K. Mendiola & Family
Jose & Leticia King & Family
Celina King & Gary Aldan & Family
Henry & Jackie King & Family
Juanita K. & Joseph R. Troutman & Family
+Juan T. & Annie Marie H. King & Family
Sylvia K. Biz & Family
Rosita K. & Mayor Edwin P. Aldan & Family
Brian & Carla King & Family

Reared Daughters: Jocelyn & Sandy C. King & Family, Ha'ani K. Aldan

Stepsons: Juan M. & Lourdes Atalig & Family, Miles & Evelyn King & Family

She will be greeted at the gates of heaven by her:

Parents: †Lino P. & †Victoria Toves Villagomez
Husband: †Jose Borja King
Parents In Law: †Jose & †Juana King
Daughter: †Victoria King Mendiola
Son: †Juan Toves King
Reared Brother: †Juan C. Pangelinan
Brothers & Sisters In Law: †Ramon B. King, †Dolores B. & †Ignacio Hocog, †Ignacio B. King, †Juan B. & †Lucy King, †Rosa K. Quichocho
Sons in law: +David M. Mendiola, †Edward S. Sanchez, †Marcelino P. Biz
Grand daughter: †Reyisa Michelle K. Aldan

Her beautiful and loving spirit will be remembered and forever missed by all those known to her.

Nightly rosary is being held at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ramon & Sabina Aldan, Subdivision @ 7:00 p.m.

A viewing of the late †Martha Villagomez Bantolino will be held at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), Saipan on Thursday, August 6, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The late †Martha Villagomez Bantolino will arrive on Tinian on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and will be brought to the Tinian Health Center Morgue. The rosary will immediately follow at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ramon & Sabina Aldan, Subdivision.

On Saturday, August, 8, 2020 the late †Martha Villagomez Bantolino will be brought to the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ramon & Sabina Aldan at 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for the Holy Rosary and viewing. At 10:00 a.m. the late †Martha Villagomez Bantolino will depart to the San Jose Church for the Holy Mass. The mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., and interment services will immediately follow at San Jose Public Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You from the Family.

World

Massive Beirut blast kills more than 70, injures 3K

BEIRUT (AP)—A massive explosion rocked Beirut on Tuesday, flattening much of the city's port, damaging buildings across the capital and sending a giant mushroom cloud into the sky. More than 70 people were killed and 3,000 injured, with bodies buried in the rubble, officials said.

It was not clear what caused the blast, which struck with the force of a 3.5 magnitude earthquake, according to Germany's geosciences center GFZ, and was heard and felt as far away as Cyprus more than 200 kilometers (180 miles) across the Mediterranean. Lebanon's interior minister said it appeared that a large cache of ammonium nitrate in the port had detonated.

The sudden devastation overwhelmed a country already struggling with both the coronavirus pandemic and a severe economic and financial crisis.

For hours after the explosion, the most destructive in all of Lebanon's troubled history, ambulances rushed in from around the country to carry away the wounded. Hospitals quickly filled beyond capacity, pleading for blood supplies, and generators to keep their lights on.

For blocks around the port, bloodied residents staggered through streets lined with overturned cars and littered with rubble from shattered buildings. Windows and doors were blown out kilometers (miles) away, including at the city's only international airport. Army helicopters helped battle fires raging at the port.

Interior Minister Mohammed Fahmi told a local TV station that it appeared the blast was caused by the detonation of more than 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored in a warehouse at the dock ever since it was confiscated from a cargo ship in 2014. Witnesses reported seeing an orange cloud like that which appears when toxic nitrogen dioxide gas is released after an explosion involving nitrates.

Videos showed what appeared to be a fire erupting nearby just before, and local TV stations reported that a fireworks warehouse was involved. The fire appeared to spread to a nearby building, triggering the more massive explosion, sending up a mushroom cloud and generating a shock wave.

Charbel Haj, who works at the port, said the blast started as small explosions like firecrackers. Then, he said, he was thrown off his feet.

The explosion came amid ongoing tensions between Israel and the Hezbollah military group on Lebanon's southern border. Many residents reported hearing planes overhead just before the blast, fueling rumors of an attack, though Israeli military overflights are common.

An Israeli government official said Israel "had nothing to do" with the blast. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter with the news media. Israeli officials usually do not comment on "foreign reports." The Israeli government offered emergency assistance through international intermediaries.

President Donald Trump said the U.S. "stands ready to assist Lebanon," and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo extended his "deepest condolences."

"Our team in Beirut has reported to me the extensive damage to a city and a people that I hold dear, an additional challenge in a time of already deep crisis," Pompeo said in a written statement.

The blast was stunning even for a city that has seen a 15-year civil war, suicide bombings, bombardment by Israel and political assassinations.

"It was a real horror show. I haven't seen anything like that since the days of the (civil) war," said Marwan Ramadan, who was about 500 meters (yards) from the port and was knocked off his feet by the force of the explosion.

Health Minister Hassan Hamad said the preliminary toll was more than 70 dead and more than 3,000 wounded. He added that hospitals were barely coping and offers of aid were pouring in from Arab states and friends of Lebanon.

Beirut's governor, Marwan Abboud, broke into tears as he toured the site, exclaiming, "Beirut is a devastated city." Prime Minister Hassan Diab vowed that "those responsible will pay."

At the start of a White House news conference on the coronavirus, Trump said the explosion "looks like a terrible attack." When asked by a reporter if he was confident that it was an attack, Trump said: "I met with some of our great generals and they just seem to feel that it was."

But one of Israel's top bomb experts, Boaz Hayoun, said fireworks could have been a factor setting off the bigger blast. "Before the big explosion ... in the center of the fire, you can see sparks, you can hear sounds like popcorn and you can hear whistles," said Hayoun, owner of the Tamar Group, which works closely with the Israeli government on safety and certification issues involving explosives. "This is very specific behavior of fireworks."

Some of those injured lay on the ground at the port, Associated Press staff at the scene said. A civil defense official said there were still bodies inside the port, many under debris.

Several of Beirut's hospitals were damaged in the blast. Outside the St. George University Hospital in Beirut's Achrafieh neighborhood, people with various injuries arrived in ambulances, in cars and on foot. The explosion had caused major damage inside the building and knocked out the electricity. Dozens of injured were being treated on the spot on the street outside, on stretchers and wheelchairs.

Outside one hospital, Omar Kinno sat on the pavement, holding back tears. Kinno, a Syrian, said one of his sisters was killed when the blast rocked their apartment near the port, and another sister's neck was broken. His injured mother and father were taken to a hospital but he didn't know which, and he was making calls trying to track them down.

"I have no idea what happened to my parents. I am totally lost," he said.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, UNIFIL, said one of its ships in the port was damaged and a number of its peacekeepers were injured, some seriously.

Confusion reigned across the city, as people cleared out of damaged homes or tried to locate family. Motorcyclists picked their way through traffic, carrying the injured.

One woman covered in blood from the waist up walked down a trashed street while talking furiously on her phone. On another street, a woman with a bloodied face looked distraught, staggering through traffic with two friends at her side.

"This country is cursed," a young man passing by muttered.

Environment

How fifth-grade science can help stop climate change

Cold-weather cover crops, such as rye, feed carbon into the soil. (AP)

By DANIEL NEMAN
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

You probably remember your fifth-grade science: plants absorb carbon dioxide, which, through a process called photosynthesis, is converted into carbohydrates and oxygen.

The carbohydrates help the plant grow. The oxygen is a waste product that allows the rest of us to breathe.

Carbon dioxide, of course, is one of the biggest greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change—it is the second most abundant of those gases after water vapor. It would be helpful, then, to store some of that carbon in the ground, where it would not be released into the atmosphere for centuries, and then only slowly.

This is where farmers and something called regenerative agriculture can come in.

Scientists have figured out ways for farmers essentially to take carbon dioxide out of the air and sequester it in the earth. The idea has been around for a number of years, but I was recently reintroduced to it by a particularly informative article Maddie Oatman wrote for Mother Jones magazine (Oatman was with me last year at a National Press Foundation fellowship on food and agriculture).

In the article, Oatman writes that some of the carbon absorbed by plants is leaked out into the soil below through its roots. Microbes in the soil then convert this carbon (and the carbon from decomposed plants) into humus, which helps dirt retain moisture and nutrients. Basically, it is what helps plants to grow.

Keeping a root system viable with living plants is beneficial to the soil, and therefore to farmers. But most farmers typically do the opposite. After they have harvested their crops, they plow the remaining plants into the earth.

Doing so allows them to plant their crops more easily the next year. But as soil scientists have discovered, the practice also diminishes the health of the soil. To see the same yields, farmers have to use more artificial fertilizer.

The new movement, regenerative agriculture, encourages farmers not to till their fields but rather to leave the plants and stems on top of the ground. Then the farmers can plant a cold-weather cover crop such as rye, Dutch white clover or hairy vetch around them.

The cover crop roots feed carbon into the soil, while the cover crop and the remains of the previous crop shield the soil from the elements. This allows the microbes to multiply and also keeps the carbon in the soil from turning into carbon dioxide and returning to the atmosphere.

One of the farmers Oatman talked to said that his yield had not improved using this method, though other farmers have noticed that theirs does. But he saves money on fuel (it can be thousands of dollars for an average-sized farm) and labor by not having to run his tractor over the field as many times. He also saves money by not having to buy artificial fertilizer.

And there is another new incentive to engage in regenerative agriculture. Last week, Bayer announced that it was joining other companies in paying farmers to capture carbon in the soil through such methods as cover-crop planting and no-till farming.

Bayer would give the farmers credits to purchase Bayer products, such as seeds. But the company Oatman wrote about, Indigo Agriculture, promises to pay farmers actual cash—$15 for every metric ton of carbon they capture in the soil. That would give the farmer anywhere from $30 to $45 per acre.

That would be a significant addition to a farmer's income. In 2019, according to the article, an acre of corn brought an average of $650 to a farmer.

Indigo can make these payments because it plans to sell carbon credits to companies looking for a way to comply with federal guidelines on pollution without the expense of actually limiting its emissions. Such companies as Microsoft, JetBlue and Shell either already are buying or plan to buy credits as a way to diminish their net carbon footprint, the article states.

Indigo has announced an ambitious plan to use regenerative agriculture worldwide to sink a teraton of carbon—that's more than 2 billion tons—into the ground.

Life & Style

Neil Young sues Trump campaign, deriding use of famous tunes

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Young sued President Donald Trump's reelection campaign Tuesday for copyright infringement, saying he doesn't want his music used as a theme song for a "divisive un-American campaign of ignorance and hate."

The Grammy-award winning Canadian-born musician filed the lawsuit through his lawyers in Manhattan federal court, seeking up to $150,000 in statutory damages for each infringement.

A message seeking comment was left with a campaign spokesperson.

The legendary singer cited repeated use of two songs: "Rockin' in the Free World" and "Devil's Sidewalk."

The campaign has used the tunes numerous times at rallies and political events, including on June 20 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the lawsuit said.

Young said he was not suing to "disrespect the rights and opinions of American citizens, who are free to support the candidate of their choosing," the lawsuit said.

"However," it added, "Plaintiff in good conscience cannot allow his music to be used as a 'theme song' for a divisive, un-American campaign of ignorance and hate."

Young first complained about the use of the 1990 single, "Rockin' in the Free World," in June 2015, when the song accompanied Trump's announcement of his presidential campaign, according to the lawsuit.

The campaign's insistence in a statement then that it had obtained permission to use the music only proved that it was aware it needed permission, the lawsuit said.

It said Young has voiced continuous and public objections to the use of the music.

"The campaign has willfully ignored Plaintiff"s telling it not to play the Songs and willfully proceeded to play the Songs despite its lack of a license," according to the lawsuit.

New York attorney Ivan Saperstein, who filed the lawsuit on Young's behalf along with attorney Robert S. Besser of Santa Monica, California,

Kanye West withdraws petition to get on NJ's 2020 ballot

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Kanye West withdrew his petition to appear as a presidential candidate on New Jersey's ballot, according to an email chain between a judge and what appears to be the rapper's campaign email address.

In email correspondence obtained by The Associated Press, an unidentified person writing from a Kanye 2020 address tells Administrative Law Judge Gail Cookson that West is dropping his effort to appear on New Jersey's ballot.

"At this time, Kanye 2020 has no further option than to regrettably withdraw from New Jersey and cease further efforts to place Mr. West's name on the New Jersey ballot," the Kanye 2020 email said late Monday.

Cookson replied Tuesday, accepting the withdrawal.

"I will consider this email as a request for a withdrawal of your petition to be placed in nomination for the President of the United States in the State of New Jersey," Cookson wrote.

Election law attorney Scott Salmon objected to West's petition last month, arguing that it failed to pass legal muster because signatures were incomplete and in some cases appeared written in very similar handwriting.

Salmon, who is a registered Democrat but brought the complaint on his own behalf, reacted positively to the news that West had withdrawn.

"I am glad that the Kanye campaign has realized that their petition was so deficient that it wasn't even worth defending," Salmon said in a phone interview. "It sort of highlights the fact that it shouldn't have been submitted in the first place."

The New Jersey petition showed a number of signatures looked nearly identical, including lower-case i's dotted with a small circle. Some signatures lacked complete addresses. On the petition, West listed his residence as Cody, Wyoming, where he bought two ranches in the area last year.

Questions about why West withdrew and whether the campaign disputed Salmon's objection were sent to the Kanye 2020 email address.

New Jersey is a reliably Democratic state in presidential elections, siding with the Democrat since 1988.

Ben Samuel shares lessons learned from 'Dating Around'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ben Samuel hasn't had any heart-to-hearts with Chris Harrison or asked dozens of eager women, "Will you accept this rose?" But that hasn't stopped much of the internet from crowning the "Dating Around" participant as reality TV's most eligible bachelor.

"It's been overwhelming," Samuel says of the attention he's received from his Netflix episode. "People have said, 'Seeing you go out there, someone who clearly didn't necessarily have a lot of dating experience but take that risk, has inspired me to join some dating apps and (try) to put myself out there, too."

Set in New Orleans for its second season, "Dating Around" features a principle dater each episode who goes on five blind dates. The filming gives the illusion they all take place during one night as the dates cut back and forth through sleek editing. (In reality, the dates occurred throughout the course of about a week with the main dater styled the same way each time.) At the end of each episode, a person is chosen for a second date.

AP

This image released by Netflix shows Ben Samuel in an episode of "Dating Around."

"One of the big things that I am learning because of the show that maybe everybody else learned in high school—but hey, I'm a late bloomer—two people can be totally awesome, totally wonderful, totally incredible. And maybe it just doesn't work out," said Samuel, a 36-year-old computer science professor.

The Associated Press talked with Samuel about the authenticity of the series, his current relationship status and how he captured the internet's heart. Answers may have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Reality dating shows are known to stir up drama. How involved were the producers?

Samuel: Everything that you see is genuine, as it happened…I was genuinely shocked at how faithfully I feel that they recaptured or recreated the feelings of all of those different dates.

AP: Viewers fell in love with your consistent nervousness. Is that really you?

Samuel: I personally feel—and many of my close friends who've watched the episode have all agreed—that they did a really good job of capturing my essence. That is who I am...the way that they presented me was very authentic.

AP: You eventually chose Alex, but why were you so emotional after your date with Jaden?

Samuel: The reason why I reacted the way that I did—I say like, "Oh shucks, oh darn. I liked ya," or whatever I said, that was a reference to something earlier in the date as well where we were talking about ex stories or failed romantic stories. And I mentioned how in my youth, there is a woman that I really loved. And when she said she just wanted to be friends, I did not handle it well. I was really devastated. And I said, "I think modern day Ben would handle it better."

Favorite son's jabs at brother's wife causing family friction

DEAR ABBY: I married "Darius" two years ago. I have had problems with my brother-in-law ever since Darius and I first began dating five years ago.

From my husband's perspective, his parents have always favored his younger brother, "Adonis." "Anything goes" is their attitude where he is concerned. Adonis takes things without asking, lies and constantly makes disrespectful comments toward us. He was never reprimanded as a child, and now he's an adult (24), the sniping continues.

A few months ago, he showed up unannounced at my home and insulted a guest who was visiting at the time. (She also doesn't care for him.) I asked him to leave to avoid making waves with her.

I think Adonis owes me an apology, but he refuses to give me a sincere one. My father-in-law thinks I should just "get over it" and says I am being ridiculous because I no longer want to attend family events if Adonis is present. Mostly the reason is I no longer want to tolerate his behavior while he's drinking and making constant "jokes" about me.

I feel bad for my husband because we have missed out on seeing family members and enjoying ourselves at events because I don't want to create a scene. Darius supports the way I feel, but says he can't demand an apology from his brother. I feel if I back down now, Adonis' behavior will continue for the rest of my life. I don't think I should be treated this way. How should I resolve this issue?

FAMILY PROBLEM IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR FAMILY PROBLEM: I'm glad you wrote. Adonis is getting away with this because your in-laws are enabling it. Your husband should straighten his spine and inform his "little" brother he drinks too much, and he wants the sniping stopped. Your father-in-law is a mile off base. It isn't ridiculous to want to avoid verbal abuse from a drunk, and he, too, should have a talk with Adonis. Until that happens, you are right to keep your distance. Nobody likes pain, and your brother-in-law appears unwilling to stop being a large one in a southern portion of your anatomy.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 32-year-old woman, engaged to a wonderful man. We were supposed to start trying to get pregnant, but because of the virus, we decided to put it off. I know we are making the right choice.

I had already started a journal/planner and was so excited. But now I feel myself slipping into depression. We are both lucky enough to still be working, so I'm not just sitting around dwelling on it. But when I canceled my prenatal vitamin subscription the other day, it hit me like a ton of bricks.

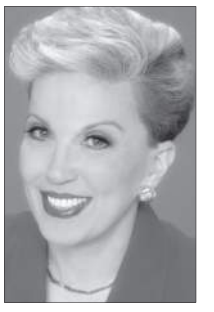
I know we are lucky to not have bigger woes than this right now, but I'm heartbroken. Any advice would be appreciated.

HOLDING OFF ON MOTHERHOOD

DEAR HOLDING OFF: I am sorry for your heartache.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I know this is painful. It's important that you not hold these sad feelings inside. Talk with your fiance about them and share with close friends and family. Pour your feelings into the journal you started.

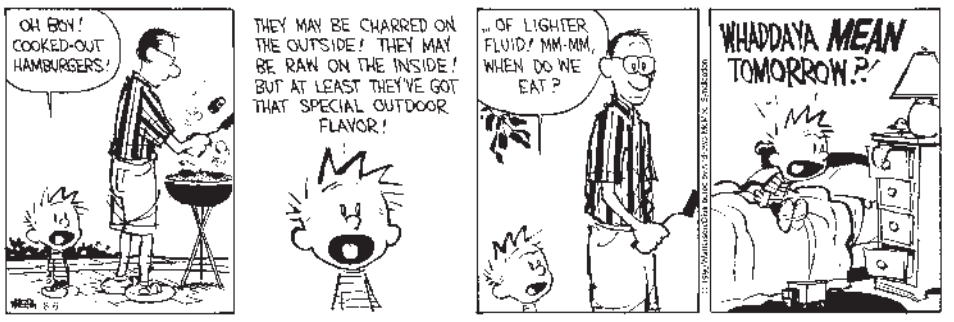
Your road to motherhood may be longer than you initially thought, but it's going to be an interesting journey. I hope you will take comfort in the knowledge that postponing your pregnancy was a decision you and your fiance made for the right reasons and didn't take lightly.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

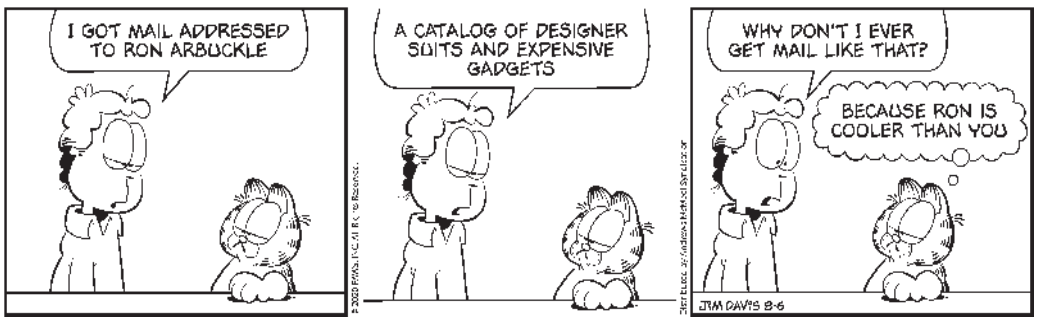
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH BOY! COOKED-OUT HAMBURGERS!
THEY MAY BE CHARRED ON THE OUTSIDE! THEY MAY BE RAW ON THE INSIDE! BUT AT LEAST THEY'VE GOT THAT SPECIAL OUTDOOR FLAVOR!
...OF LIGHTER FLUID! MM-MM, WHEN DO WE EAT?
WHADDAYA MEAN TOMORROW?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I GOT MAIL ADDRESSED TO RON ARBUCKLE
A CATALOG OF DESIGNER SUITS AND EXPENSIVE GADGETS
WHY DON'T I EVER GET MAIL LIKE THAT?
BECAUSE RON IS COOLER THAN YOU
JIM DAVIS 8-6

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, THERE YOU GO. ONE BUBBLE POOL. AS YOU ORDERED.
IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN I'D IMAGINED.
SO CALMING... SO...
CLAYTON, STOP CHURNING UP BUBBLES WITH YOUR FEET!
NEVER!
8-6

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I DOWNLOADED THAT COUNTRY SONG I LIKE.
THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANY COUNTRY MUSIC I'VE HEARD.
IT'S FROM THE COUNTRY OF SWAZILAND.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Obi
5 College VIP
9 Chatter
12 Jazzy Fitzgerald
13 Scarce
14 Enzyme ending
15 Hotel atrium
17 Hwy.
18 Call for
19 Passion
21 Atop
22 Threaded hardware
24 Chess soldier
27 One of the five W's
28 Froth
31 Equal (Pref.)
32 Football filler
33 Hitter's stat
34 Knitting stitch
36 Transcript no.
37 Furniture brand
38 Flying toys
40 Harris or Asner
41 Maestro Zubin —
43 Egyptian deity
47 Santa —
48 Paved tennis surface
51 Damascus is its cap.
52 As soon as
53 Silent actor
54 Possessed
55 Greek vowels
56 Ginger cookie

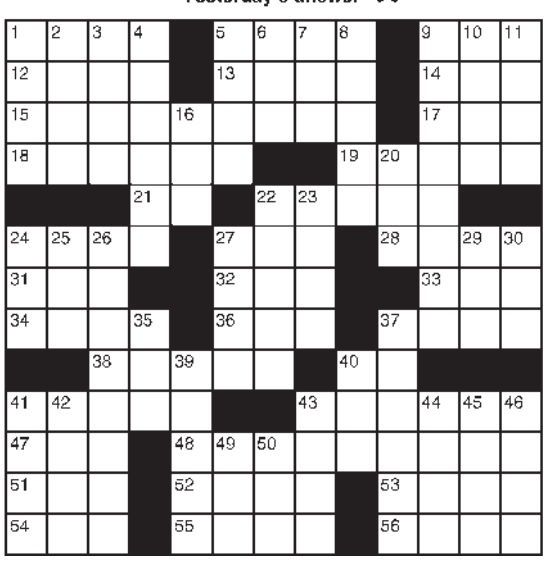
DOWN

1 Brief moments
2 Matty of baseball
3 Urban blight
4 "NCIS" star Mark
5 — Mawr
6 Goat's cry
7 Bruins legend
8 Fragrant wood
9 Raking leaves, mowing the lawn, etc.
10 Regarding
11 Equal
16 Heavy weight
20 Ump
22 Fleet members
23 "Downton Abbey" countess
24 Domino spot
25 Tempe sch.
26 Toil away
27 Carry on
29 Copper head?
30 Soccer's Hamm
35 Set afire
37 Figures of speech
39 Western resort lake
40 PC key
41 Pulverize potatoes
42 "May It Be" singer
43 Praiseful pieces
44 Wreck
45 Cookbook author Rombauer
46 Dance move
49 Busy insect
50 Sony rival

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	O	D	E	■	M	O	E	■	T	M	A	N
E	D	I	T	■	A	N	S	■	R	I	L	E
W	I	S	H	L	■	S	T	■	I	S	M	S
D	E	C	E	I	■	■	C	L	D	H	A	T
■	■	■	L	E	A	■	P	O	E	M	■	■
B	F	F	■	D	■	S	■	C	N	A	S	H
C	F	I	B	■	S	A	C	■	T	S	K	S
C	A	S	E	D	■	O	R	B	■	H	I	T
■	■	■	H	A	I	H	■	C	O	P	■	■
H	O	I	I	E	A	■	S	I	A	G	E	S
E	L	A	L	■	D	I	S	H	R	A	C	K
M	I	N	E	■	■	L	E	■	T	R	O	Y
I	N	K	S	■	O	K	S	■	S	Y	N	F

Yesterday's answer 8-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vera Farmiga, 47; Geri Halliwell, 48; M. Night Shyamalan, 50; Michelle Yeoh, 58.

Happy Birthday: Take your time this year, and learn from the experiences you encounter. Don't trust situations or people who are manipulative or play with your emotions. Separate the negative from positive and associate with those who bring out the best in you, and you'll find the success you desire. This year isn't about mass production; it's about doing things right. Your numbers are 4, 10, 19, 23, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Decisiveness will be necessary when dealing with pending legal, health or financial matters. Don't leave anything to chance, and it will make your quest a lot easier to achieve. Don't allow emotional issues to stand between you and doing what's right. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be innovative and eager to get things done. How you attack a project or responsibility will be what counts in the end. Don't let temptation or interference get in the way of your success. Make your position clear, and strive for consistency. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take better care of your physical and emotional well-being. Focus on fitness, diet and steering clear of situations that cause anxiety and stress. Think matters through, and take action based on truth and facts. Let experience guide you. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let anyone back you into a corner. Assess what's going on, seek the truth and take action. If you don't stand up for your rights and what you want, you'll have no one to blame but yourself. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Hard work will keep you out of trouble. Put your energy where it counts most, and you'll make a difference to the outcome of a situation that concerns you. Romance is in the stars and will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Address pending issues openly and honestly. The best course of action is to enforce a change that encourages better relationships. Stick to basics as well as the rules, and move forward judiciously. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Discipline will pay off. Keep busy, and finish what you start. Your reputation will depend on attitude and your ability to get things done correctly and on time. Don't make personal changes that affect your appearance. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Incorporate some fun into your day, but don't go over budget. Use your imagination, and you'll develop a plan that is both cost-efficient and enjoyable. A creative endeavor will be enlightening and encourage greater discipline. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Consider how or where you want to live. The personal changes you make should include the people you care about most. Don't let an outsider come between you and someone you love. Analyze an emotional incident before you get involved. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let anger settle in, or you will fall short when you try to reach your accomplishments. Use your energy wisely, and make a point to be positive, accommodating and efficient. Leave a good impression, and you'll gain respect. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't make a change because someone else does. Weigh the pros and cons, and proceed down the path that will bring you the most in return. Personal gains look promising if you use your intelligence and your imagination to get ahead. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Spend time helping others, and you will feel good about what you accomplish. The people you encounter will give you a different perspective on life. A change someone close to you makes will disappoint you. Be honest about the way you feel. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, changeable and ambitious. You are determined and passionate.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7			6			
	1		5	6		2	3	
5	7							
				3			2	1
	4						7	
2	5			9				
							8	4
	6	9		7	5		1	
		4			1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/06

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	4	6	8	7	3	9	1	2
3	1	8	4	9	2	6	5	7
9	2	7	5	6	1	8	4	3
1	3	5	7	8	9	4	2	6
7	6	4	1	2	5	3	8	9
2	8	9	3	4	6	5	7	1
4	5	3	6	1	7	2	9	8
8	9	1	2	3	4	7	6	5
6	7	2	9	5	8	1	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ANYONE HAVE AN AIR FRYER? **Solution: 11 letters**

F	T	I	M	E	Y	C	N	E	I	C	I	F	F	E
A	R	E	C	I	T	A	M	O	T	U	A	P	F	R
R	A	E	F	P	N	O	O	P	S	E	L	I	S	C
B	N	E	D	A	H	S	M	E	L	L	K	E	E	H
E	I	N	E	V	L	I	C	N	I	H	T	S	T	A
R	S	N	O	C	A	B	L	R	F	U	U	R	A	M
W	I	B	A	K	I	N	G	I	I	S	R	M	L	B
A	U	E	S	F	F	V	D	C	P	E	B	A	U	E
R	C	A	H	I	Ⓣ	A	O	E	C	S	O	N	C	R
E	S	J	A	S	S	Ⓞ	S	N	R	I	C	U	R	K
G	L	N	K	H	K	T	Ⓗ	T	I	W	H	A	I	S
G	I	I	E	V	A	W	U	N	S	O	E	L	C	T
S	O	N	T	S	P	A	C	E	P	G	F	I	A	A
V	O	R	T	E	X	G	N	I	Y	R	F	E	J	O
B	R	E	A	D	I	S	H	W	A	S	H	E	R	C

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 8/6

Automatic, Bacon, Baking, Basket, Bread, Chamber, Circulates, Coat, Cook, Crispy, Cuisinart, Dash, Dishwasher, Efficiency, Eggs, Elite, Farberware, Fast, Fish, Fred van der Weij, Frying, GoWise, Grill, Heat, Hot, Manual, Ninja, Novice, NuWave, Oils, Open, Philips, Pies, Rack, Shake, Smell, Space, Spoon, Taste, Tefal, Time, Turbochef, Uses, Vortex

Yesterday's Answer: Convertible

The NEW **Treasury 39** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Booker's buzzer-beater keeps Suns unbeaten

FLORIDA (AP)—Devin Booker made a turnaround jumper over Paul George as time expired, capping a 35-point performance and giving the Phoenix Suns a 117-115 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday.

"I'm happy for him, but he'd be the first one to tell you we're not done," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said of Booker.

The Suns improved to 3-0 in the bubble as they chase a playoff spot.

"This is a fun team to be a part of and we're having fun with it," Booker said. "This whole experience ... we just wanted to come down here and make some noise and that's what we're doing."

Kawhi Leonard had tied the game with two free throws with 31.3 seconds to go. Ricky Rubio missed a shot after that and Ivica Zubac got the rebound, but he threw a bad pass that Mikal Bridges stole to give the Suns another chance.

Booker dribbled left before being cut off by Leonard. He turned the other direction and shot as George was closing, then crashed to the court as his teammates surrounded him to celebrate the victory.

"You pretty much (saw) the shot," Leonard said. "He got to his spot."

Booker was asked about the celebration after his big shot.

"I'm not a big celebration guy ... but they caught me on the ground so I couldn't get away from them," he said.

After setting a franchise record by making 25 3-pointers in a win over New Orleans on Saturday, the Clippers managed just eight in the loss. Leonard led the Clippers with 27 points and George added 23.

The Suns led by eight in the fourth before the Clippers used an 8-2 run with an alley-oop dunk by Zubac to cut the lead to 107-105 with about 5 minutes to go.

Nets 119, Bucks 116

Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot hit back-to-back 3-pointers to put Brooklyn ahead to stay, and the Nets beat Milwaukee to keep the Bucks from clinching the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Luwawu-Cabarrot finished with a career-high 26 points. Garrett Temple scored 19, Tyler Johnson and Justin Anderson each had 11 and Rodions Kurucs and Chris Chiozza had 10 apiece.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 16 points playing only the first half for Milwaukee, which has lost two of three seeding games. Kyle Korver scored 13 points, and Ersan Ilyasova had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Frank Mason III added 11 points.

Heat 111, Celtics 106

Bam Adebayo had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Miami never trailed in beating Boston to remain alone in the fourth spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Celtics had their lead for the No. 3 seed cut to 1 1/2 games over the Heat. Miami has a game lead on Indiana and improved to 2-1 so far in the seeding games, despite Jimmy Butler sitting out with a sore right ankle after playing Monday in a loss to Toronto.

Duncan Robinson also had 21 points for Miami. Goran Dragic added 20 off the bench, Kelly Olynyk scored 15 and Tyler Herro 11.

Jayson Tatum led Boston with 23 points. Jaylen Brown had 13 points and 10 rebounds, Gordon Hayward and Kemba Walker each added 15 points and Enes Kanter scored 10.

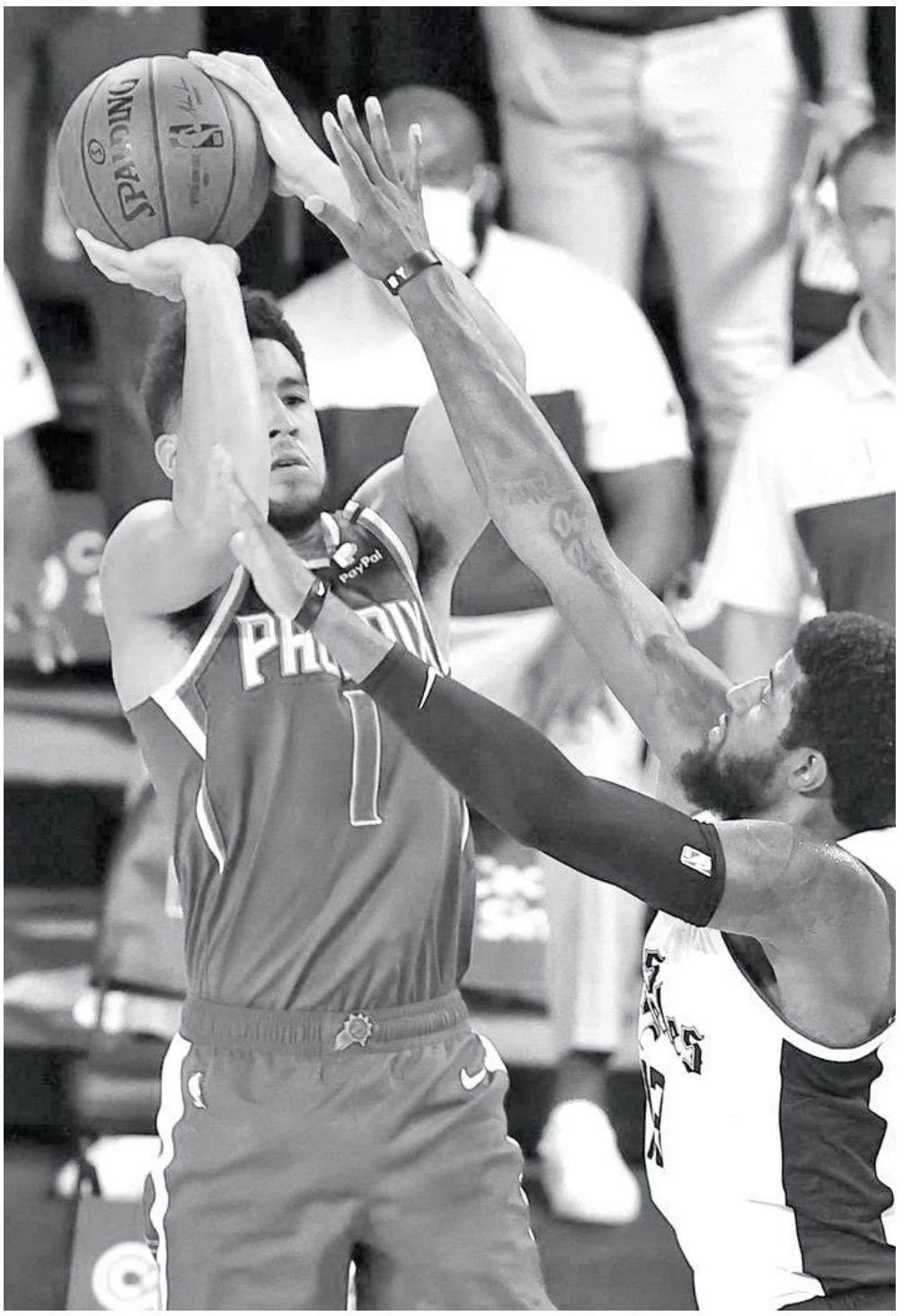
Trail Blazers 110, Rockets 102

Damian Lillard scored 21 points and Carmelo Anthony hit a big 3-pointer late to help Portland beat Houston.

The Blazers led by one before Lillard made one of two free throws. Anthony's 3 then extended the lead to 107-102 when less than a minute to go.

Lillard added two free throws and Anthony, who had 15 points and 11 rebounds, made one in the final minute to secure the victory for Portland, which is fighting for a playoff spot.

James Harden led Houston with 23 points and nine assists on a night he was slowed by foul trouble. Jeff Green added a season-high 22 points as the Rockets lost for the first time in the bubble after winning their first two games.



AP

Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker shoots the game-winning basket over Los Angeles Clippers' Paul George (13) in an NBA game Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Mavericks 114, Kings 110, OT

Luka Doncic punctuated a triple-double by making the tiebreaking shot with 1:57 left in overtime and leading Dallas past Sacramento.

Doncic was sensational, finishing with 34 points, a career-high 20 rebounds and 12 assists. At 21 years, 158 days, he became the youngest player to finish a game with 30 or more points, 20 or more rebounds and 10 or more assists, shattering Oscar Robertson's previous mark of 23 years, 12 days.

Kristaps Porzingis added 22 points and seven rebounds before fouling out late in regulation.

It was the Mavs' first victory since arriving at Walt Disney World and allowed them to remain the only NBA to avoid three straight losses this season.

De'Aaron Fox scored 28 points and Buddy Hield had 21, but the Kings could not close out a game they controlled almost from the opening tip until the end of regulation.

Pacers 120, Magic 109

T.J. Warren scored 32 points, tying Jermaine O'Neal's franchise record for most in a three-game span, to send Indiana past Orlando for its third consecutive victory.

Warren has topped the 30-point mark in each game at Walt Disney World, starting with his 53-point outburst in the opener. He has 119 points (39.7 per game) in the restart.

Myles Turner added 21 points for the Pacers.

Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, whose season-best, five-game winning streak ended. Aaron Gordon added 20 points for Orlando, trying to claim its second straight playoff appearance for the first time since a six-year run ended in 2011-12.

Woods in a better place heading into PGA Championship

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The course is one Tiger Woods knows well and where he has winning memories. The PGA Championship is a major he has won four times, more than anyone except Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen.

Woods learned last year that brings no guarantee of playing well.

Coming off the deep emotions of a Masters victory that capped his remarkable comeback, Woods lasted only two days at Bethpage Black and missed the cut.

He said Tuesday he's in a much better place at the TPC Harding Park.

Never mind that Woods has played only one tournament—a tie for 40th at the Memorial—in the last six months because of the COVID-19 pandemic and his own limited schedule. The biggest difference was showing up on Sunday in the sunshine to play 18 holes at Harding Park, followed by nine holes Monday as fog crept through the cypress trees and the temperature plunged into the 50s.

A year ago, he played 18 holes a week before the PGA Championship and only nine holes in the three days leading to the opening round. This year, his approach appears more serious.

"After I won the Masters, it was a bit of a whirlwind," Woods said. "We got a chance to go to the White House and meet with our president. I celebrated winning the Masters for quite some time. Came to Bethpage and played awful, and felt like Brooks (Koepka) beat me by like 30 shots in two days."

It wasn't that bad. Koepka pipped him by only 17 and went on to win a second straight Wanamaker Trophy.

"My game is better than it was going into that PGA," Woods said, "and hopefully, I can put it together this week."

They were encouraging words, not quite to the level he shared about a few past majors. Woods said that only three times in the 15 majors he won did he realize "all I had to do was keep my heartbeat going and I was going to win."

One was his 12-shot victory in the 1997 Masters. The others were his 15-shot win at Pebble Beach in 2000 and his eight-shot win at St. Andrews in 2000.

"My game was clicking on all cylinders for maybe the week prior. The week of it, got a little bit better and just had to maintain it the rest of the week," he said. "Those were the rare exceptions.

'Big Game Brooks'

Brooks Koepka now has gone more than a full year without winning, a drought he hasn't experienced since he was still new enough on the PGA Tour that his name was mistakenly pronounced "cupcake."

If it doesn't seem like a full year, that's because it really wasn't.

Three months were lost when he injured his left knee in October from slipping off a wet slab of concrete while walking off the tee at the CJ Cup in South Korea. Another three months were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Either way, the PGA Championship should be the perfect place to end it.

It's a major, and Koepka believes those are the easiest for him to win. He said that last year going into the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black, right before he set the major championship record for the lowest 36-hole score (128), built a seven-shot lead and held on to win.

And he doubled down on that belief Tuesday.

"Yeah, I still feel that way," Koepka said. "The way the golf course sets up eliminates pretty much half the guys. And then from there, half of those guys probably won't play well. Then from there, I feel like mentally I can beat the other half. So you've probably got 10 guys."

The math was a little off, but Koepka isn't about to get caught up in minutiae.

"I think that's why I've played so well is I break things down very easily," he said. "For some reason, people make golf a lot more complicated than it should be."

Trout homers in return, Angels beat Mariners

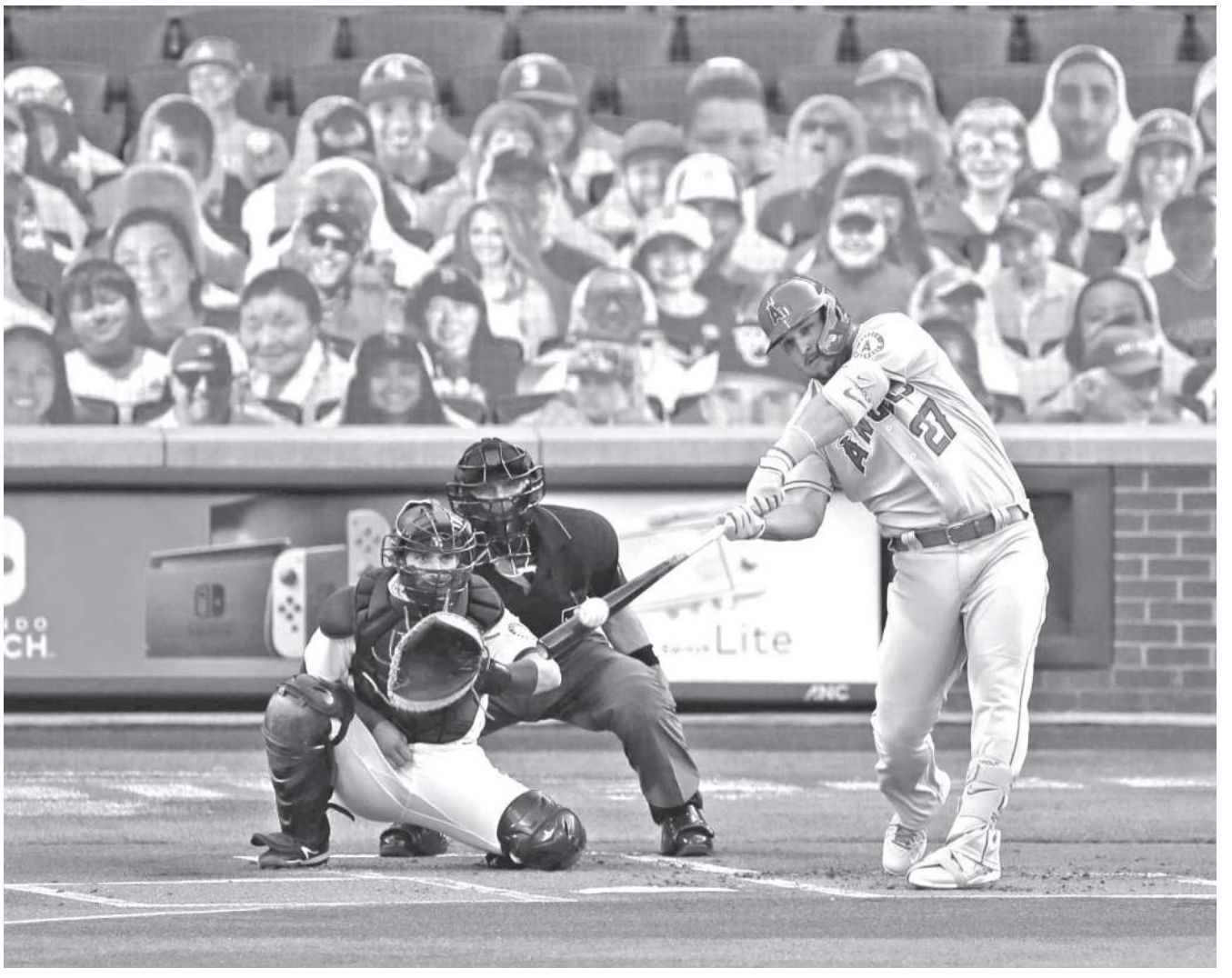
SEATTLE (AP)—Mike Trout homered in his first plate appearance as a father, Albert Pujols moved one step closer to Willie Mays on the career home runs list and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Seattle Mariners 5-3 on Tuesday night.

Trout missed four games while on paternity leave for the birth of his son, Beckham Aaron Trout. He returned with a solo shot to left-center in the first inning and finished 1 for 3 with a walk on a day full of news for the Angels as top prospect Jo Adell also made his debut.

Pujols hit a two-run homer later in the first for a 3-0 lead, giving him 659 for his career, one behind Mays on the career list.

Adell legged out an infield single in his first at-bat for his first major league hit and finished 1 for 4 with a strikeout. One of the most heralded prospects in baseball, Adell boasts a five-tool skillset and is expected to be the team's primary right fielder.

David Fletcher added a two-run homer for the Angels in the seventh.



AP

Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout hits a solo home run during the first inning of a baseball game as Seattle Mariners catcher Austin Nola looks on, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020, in Seattle.

Marlins 4, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, after enduring one final delay in their effort to return from an eight-day, coronavirus-induced hiatus, the Miami Marlins found enough power and pitching within their vastly overhauled roster to beat the Baltimore Orioles.

Francisco Cervelli and Jesus Aguilar homered for the Marlins, who had their season halted after 18 players tested positive for COVID-19 following the opening series in Philadelphia.

Nationals 5, Mets 3

In Washington, Star slugger Juan Soto danced on the dugout roof to celebrate solo shots by Howie Kendrick and Josh Harrison, and Washington returned from a coronavirus-caused four-day break to beat injury-depleted New York in a rain-interrupted game.

Kendrick went 4 for 4. Harrison drove in two runs and stole a base, and Patrick Corbin (1-0) allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings while striking out eight.

Daniel Hudson pitched the ninth for his second save in two chances.

Rockies 5, Giants 2

In Denver, German Marquez (2-1) struck out nine in efficiently throwing into the eighth inning and benefited from an overturned home-run call for rolling Colorado. The Rockies moved to 8-2 for the second time in franchise history, joining a 2011 team that finished 73-89.

Trailing 3-0 in the fifth, the Giants thought they tied it on a three-run homer by Steven Duggar that hit off the top of the wall. A crew chief review overturned the call and awarded Duggar a two-run double.

Athletics 5, Rangers 1

In Oakland, Stephen Piscotty hit Oakland's second walkoff grand slam of the year and gave the club its fourth straight win.

The late-game theatrics helped the A's win on a night when prized pitching prospect Jesus Luzardo pitched five scoreless innings in his first career start for Oakland and Texas starter Lance Lynn allowed first run of the season.

Dodgers 5, Padres 2

In San Diego, AJ Pollock hit a pinch, go-ahead double in the seventh inning and added a solo homer, and Dustin May struck out a career-high eight.

Mookie Betts entered the game in right field in the eighth inning after missing Monday night's 5-4 loss in the series opener due to a finger injury.

May (1-0) held San Diego to three hits and two runs in six innings, with one walk. Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his third save in three chances.

Twins 7, Pirates 3

In Minneapolis, Jose Berrios (1-1) pitched six strong innings, Nelson Cruz had three hits and Minnesota beat Pittsburgh in a game briefly delayed when an unauthorized drone flew over Target Field.

The Twins won their fifth in a row and improved to 9-2 for the second time in the team's 60-year history. The other was 2001.

Miguel Sano doubled and Eddie Rosario dribbled a single through the shift as part of a three-run first inning off Joe Musgrove (0-3).

Rays 5, Red Sox 1

In Florida, Austin Meadows got two hits after missing the first 10 games of the season with the coronavirus and Tampa Bay stopped its losing streak at five.

Boston lost its fourth in a row, including a three-game sweep at Yankees Stadium over the weekend, and fell to 3-8 overall.

Meadows hit an an RBI triple in the fifth inning off Nathan Eovaldi (1-1) and scored on Brandon Lowe's single to put the Rays up 4-1.

Braves 10, Blue Jays 1

In Atlanta, Max Fried boosted Atlanta's depleted rotation by allowing only one run in six innings, and Austin Riley hit a three-run homer.

Riley pulled a 3-2 pitch from Matt Shoemaker (0-1) into the Blue Jays' bullpen behind the left-field wall in the fifth. It was the third homer allowed by Shoemaker, following shots by Matt Adams and Tyler Flowers in the second.

White Sox 3, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Jose Abreu hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, Lucas Giolito (1-1) struck out nine and allowed two runs in six innings and Chicago won its sixth straight game for the first time since April 2017.

White Sox rookie second baseman Nick Madrigal left the game with an injured left shoulder in the third inning after he was thrown out trying to get from first to third on a single up the middle.

Cubs 5, Royals 4

In Chicago, Jason Heyward, Jason Kipnis and Willson Contreras homered and the Cubs overcame another shaky outing by closer Craig Kimbrel to beat Kansas City for its fifth straight win.

Kimbrel took over to begin the ninth inning with a 5-2 lead but struggled again and allowed two runs and two hits while getting only one out. He's yielded six runs in 1 2/3 innings in three appearances this season.

Indians 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Shane Bieber (3-0) overcame two solo home runs to pitch into the eighth inning, Franmil Reyes hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer and Cleveland snapped a four-game skid.

Reyes capped the Indians' comeback from a 2-0 deficit with his first homer of the season after hitting 37 with San Diego and Cleveland last year.

Astros 8, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa hit solo homers, George Springer added a two-run double and Houston roughed up Madison Bumgarner (0-2) for eight runs in 4 1/3 innings.

The Astros put the game away in the fifth inning with five runs, including two on Springer's bases-loaded double.

Nadal pulls out of US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Defending champion Rafael Nadal will skip the U.S. Open because of the coronavirus pandemic, putting on hold his bid to equal Roger Federer's men's record for Grand Slam titles.

Nadal explained his decision in a series of tweets sent in Spanish and English on Tuesday.

"The situation is very complicated worldwide, the COVID-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of it," Nadal wrote.

The 34-year-old from Spain called sitting out the tournament scheduled to begin Aug. 31 in New York "a decision I never wanted to take," but added that he would "rather not travel."

"Rafa is one of the greatest champions in our sport and we support his decision," U.S. Open tournament director Stacey Allaster said.

The current No. 1-ranked woman, Ash Barty, already had announced she would be missing the U.S. Open. The U.S. Tennis Association's entry list announcements Tuesday noted that 2019 women's champion Bianca Andreescu is in the field—at least for now; players can withdraw until the start of play—but made no mention of Nadal.

The professional tennis tours have been on hiatus since March because of the COVID-19 outbreak, with play resuming for women on Monday in Palermo, Italy. The first men's event on the main tour is scheduled to be held later this month.

Nadal's plan to skip the U.S. Open came shortly after the Madrid Open, scheduled for September, was canceled because of the pandemic.

"We know that the reduced tennis calendar is barbaric this year after 4 months stopped with no play," Nadal wrote on Twitter. "I understand and thank for the efforts they are putting in to make it happen."

In last year's thriller of a men's final at Flushing Meadows, Nadal edged Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 in 4 hours, 50 minutes. That gave Nadal four titles at the U.S. Open and a total of 19 across all the Grand Slam tournaments, just one away from Federer's career mark.

Federer will be absent from the U.S. Open, too, but because of two operations on his right knee this year.

The last Grand Slam tournament contested without either Federer or Nadal was the 1999 U.S. Open—four years before Nadal made his debut at one of the sport's four most prestigious events.

The USTA has given repeated indications it intends to go forward with the U.S. Open, despite the spikes in cases around the United States, saying in a news release last week: "New York State continues to be one of the safest places in the country as it relates to the COVID-19 virus."

That is currently true—although the area was a major U.S. hot spot early in the pandemic, so much so that a building at the U.S. Open site was used as a temporary hospital.

Roethlisberger confident in return from surgery

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger is pretty sure there isn't a technical term for what doctors did to his shredded right elbow last fall.

The Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback is pretty sure about one thing though: no one who has ever played his position has ever recovered from it well enough to continue throwing a football for a living.

Yet the 38-year-old is confident he will be the first. Maybe it's because the pain that led to three flexor tendons rupturing late in the first half against Seattle last September is gone.

Maybe it's because he's leaner than he's been since his mid-20s. Maybe it's because he plays for a team with a defense that kept the Steelers in the playoff mix well into December without their longtime captain. It's likely a combination of all three.

Regardless, Roethlisberger believes he can be as good as ever entering his 17th season. After some informal throwing with his teammates during the spring when the COVID-19 pandemic turned organized team activities and minicamp into a "virtual" event, Roethlisberger spent Monday at Heinz Field doing it for real during the first extended work at training camp. The best part? The way he felt when he woke up Tuesday morning.

"I've had no setbacks," he said. "It feels really good. I'm excited about that."

Relieved too.

Roethlisberger admitted he'd been dealing what he described as minor elbow discomfort for a while heading into Week 2 against Seattle. In the waning moments of the second quarter, he flung the ball deep to wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster. He clutched his arm immediately after letting it fly. Though he finished out the drive, it was obvious something was wrong. Really wrong.

"I just really felt a different pain, a different discomfort than I ever felt, and it was kind of shooting down my arm," he said. "I knew something was different at that moment."

AP

In this Sept. 16, 2018 file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger scores a touchdown in the fourth quarter of their NFL game against the Kansas City Chiefs at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, Pa.

He spent the second half standing mostly on his own on the sideline watching backup Mason Rudolph take over. The two-time Super Bowl winner underwent surgery shortly thereafter that "anchored" the torn tendons to his elbow.

For the first time since college, Roethlisberger found himself a spectator. Though he made an effort to mentor Rudolph and undrafted rookie free agent Devlin "Duck" Hodges, the view wasn't exactly appealing. It helped fuel his decision to come back rather than retire.

While Roethlisberger acknowledged the thought of walking away crossed his mind, but not long enough to matter. Like many athletes, he didn't want the lasting image of his final game to be of him standing stoically on the sideline with a baseball cap on and his right elbow under wraps. He likes to frequently point out he's played through the end of every contract he's ever signed, and there are two years (and nearly $70 million) left on the extension he agreed to in 2018.

"I'm not saying I've got 10 years left in me, but I feel like I've got some good years in me," he said. "That was definitely the motivating factor—coming back, showing I still have it in the tank, that I have a lot to give this team, that I had a lot to give the fans."

The franchise seems to agree. The team used the draft and free agency to bolster an offense that finished near the bottom of the league in nearly every statistical category without Roethlisberger's familiar No. 7 under center. Tight end Eric Ebron gives him a big red-zone target. so does 6-foot-4 rookie wide receiver Chase Claypool. Veteran guard Stefan Wisnewski's arrival gives the line some experienced depth following Ramon Foster's retirement.

Throw in a defense that led the league in sacks and takeaways and remains very much intact in 2020, Roethlisberger believes the pieces are in place for Pittsburgh to return to the playoffs following a two-year absence. The biggest question mark is—ironically—the only player left from the group that won the Steelers' sixth Super Bowl following the 2008 season. He joked the only thing the team needs "is a quarterback now."

The team will keep Roethlisberger on what he called a "pitch count" during training camp. It's led to a stunning realization: Roethlisberger actually misses the mundanity associated with the long, languid days of August and even the sometimes bothersome chore of preseason games. He found himself kind of pumped to get on the same field where his career was thrown into crisis 11 months ago, even if what amounts to "football in shorts" doesn't exactly replicate what awaits when the Steelers are scheduled to open at the New York Giants on Sept. 14.

New quarterback coach Matt Canada—who found himself watching Roethlisberger practice with regularity when Canada served as the offensive coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh, which shares a training facility with the Steelers—said Roethlisberger looks like he's always looked: sharp.

MRA

From Page 20

course I always feared crashing but that's where all the practice and safety gear come in," the female rider said.

The once-a-week exhibition races helped Mari slowly keep up with the boys on the track and she believes other female riders interested in joining the group will gain the same improvement or even better than hers once MRA gets a permanent raceway.

"I still need to learn utilizing the bike to its full power but like everything else, practice will make you better. For now, we are only allowed one day of practice a week and so I look forward to Marianas Racing Association's permanent track. I feel I need to work harder on my aggressiveness and eliminate my thoughts of crashing especially at my age, LOL. This time around, I'm taking it slowly but I do want to get back to my best shape and skill," Mari said.

The brave female rider expects more tough rides, including occasional crashes, as she works her way back into her top form, but the adrenaline rush that motocross brings to her is enough to conquer the fear of falling down from her bike.

"I think I love the fact that I'm working with a machine. Then the fast speed and going through rough terrains gives me this constant adrenaline. The fear of crashing will always be in the back of my head, but I've learned that it's part of the sport. Just need to dust off the dirt and get back on the bike," she said.

MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

Mari Alvarez clears a berm during one of the weekly races that Marianas Racing Association held last month in Marpi.

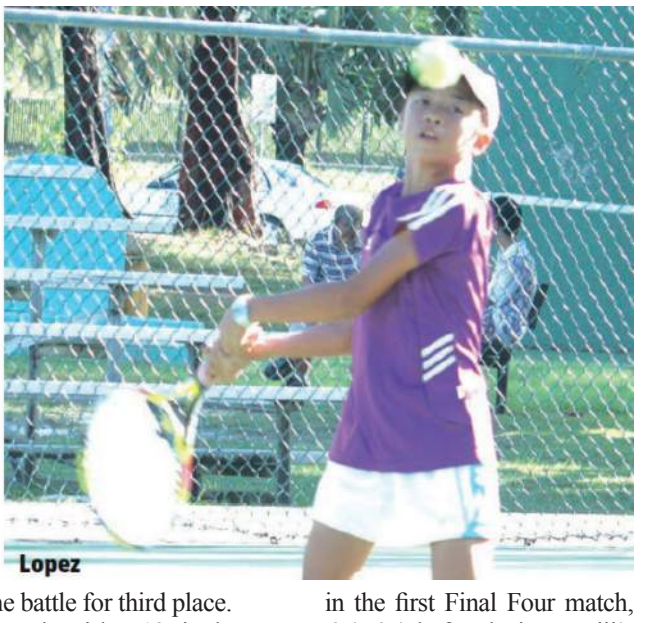
FLASHBACK

From Page 20

and also had an easy time dispatching the Cook Island's Roland Neuruer, 6-2, 6-1, for a share of the early lead with Vanuatu's Gregory Jacoby in the six-player Pool A.

In the girls U15 division, Rastguiy made it back-to-back after downing the Solomon Islands' Georgimah Row, 6-0, 6-1 and New Caledonia's Olanza Matuu, 6-1, 6-4, in Poo A matches. Lopez was also in Pool A and defeated Matuu, 6-4, 6-0, and American Samoa' s Charity Sagiao, 6-1, 6-1.

In Pool B, Ackerman survived a three-set game opposite Palau's Ayana Rengiil, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, and completed the Day 1 sweep with a victory over Fiji's Mulan Kamoe, 6-3, 6-4.



The CNMI bets went on to dominate the Top 4 of the girls U15 singles event with Lopez winning the division crown after topping Rastguiy in the finals, 6-1, 6-2, while Ackerman reached the semis before losing to Anastasia Tapusoa in the battle for third place.

In the girls U12 singles, Lee and Heras also barged into the semifinals. Heras edged Lee in the first Final Four match, 6-4, 6-4, before losing to Fiji's Ruby Coffin in the championship game, 6-4, 6-1.

Booker's buzzer-beater keeps Suns unbeaten

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Trout homers in return, Angels beat Mariners

PAGE 18

MRA welcomes female riders

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Racing Association has issued an open invitation to women looking for some adrenalin rush on the motocross track.

MRA official Cuki Alvarez, who oversees the exhibition races the revived group conducts once a week in Marpi, encouraged women interested in motocross to come forward, as experienced riders will be there to assists newbies.

"Although some ladies have asked, they still seem little timid and 'shy' and we want to try and break that thought that MX is a 'men's only' sport. We want to encourage more women to ride," Alvarez said.

Only Cuki's wife, Mari, has been regularly joining MRA's weekly races and though she admitted that motocross may be intimidating to some, especially for women, once you get the hang of it and learn from master riders, you will look forward to jumping into your bike every time you have a chance.

"I encourage women to stop by and check us out at Kan Pacific. They can watch and see if it's something that tickles their fancy. If so, we have many veteran riders that can help them find the best bike to fit their size and level as well as assist in teaching them to ride. Most of our beginner riders start at the flat tracks or the beginner course inside the baseball field. Once they build enough confidence and skill, they can start riding the main track," Mari said.

Like any newcomer in any sport, Mari said there will be challenges as you navigate your way into the track, but one must not be discouraged by these setbacks.

"The last time I rode a bike was almost 14 years ago, that's a long break! My first experience riding a dirt bike again was a combination of excitement and nervousness. It helped that I knew how to drive a standard vehicle because it's just like a car, you need to work and control the clutch, it's really an important part of the bike. Then of

See MRA on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mari Alvarez gets ready for the weekly exhibition races Marianas Racing Association organizes in Marpi.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, Negahr Rastguiy, right, joins her fellow CNMI junior national players and coach Jeff Race, left, at the PIC hard court for a training session before they head to Fiji to compete in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Flashback: Perfect opening day in POJC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By this time, if not for the COVID-19 pandemic, CNMI players would have been busy competing in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

The regional tournament has been pushed back later this year and since there were no games scheduled this month, *Saipan Tribune* looked back at the Commonwealth bets' strong start in the POJC eight years ago.

On Aug. 8, 2012, six CNMI players had a perfect record in Day 1 of the POJC.

Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, and Tammy Ackerman swept their first two games in the girls U15 singles, while Carol Lee and Isabel Heras also posted similar 2-0 records in the U12 age group of the event being played at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka and the Nadi Sports Club in Nadi. Completing the list of Commonwealth players who were unbeaten in the POJC opener was Rafael Jones in the U18 division.

Jones waltzed past Fiji's Krishneel Kumar with a straight set win, 7-5, 6-0,

See FLASHBACK on Page 19